

# THE TIMES



No. 66,253 TUESDAY JULY 14 1998 RK http://www.the-times.co.uk

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**EXCLUSIVE**

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FINAL RESULTS

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Special 16-page supplement

Extra payment for poorest pensioners

## Stricter control imposed on public sector pay

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

**STRINGENT** new controls on public sector pay and unprecedented powers for the Treasury to ensure that ministers are following the Government's spending priorities will be unveiled by the Chancellor today.

The review bodies which set the pay of 1.3 million in the public services — including nurses, doctors, teachers and the Armed Forces — are being told that their awards must be consistent with the Government's inflation target of 2.5 per cent. And ministers have been warned that big increases in health and education spending will be tied to results, such as cutting waiting lists and smaller class sizes.

A new Cabinet "Star Chamber", reporting to the Prime Minister and chaired by Gordon Brown, is to monitor the performance of individual spending departments to ensure that they are carrying out the agreed tasks of the Government. Mr Blair is also to hold quarterly meetings with key ministers to review progress on meeting election pledges on health, education, crime and welfare-to-work.

The rigorous message on pay being put out by Downing Street and the Treasury last night was clearly designed to reassure the markets after persistent indications that today's comprehensive review will herald a massive increase in spending in priority areas over the next three years.

This was underlined when the Prime Minister's spokesman said that Mr Brown's reputation as a tough Chancellor would be enhanced by the overall settlement, the firm guidelines set for ministers and the hard choices made across, between and within departments to come up with the money.

An informed source said: "We



Brown to chair Star Chamber monitoring state spending

need to balance the spending spree headlines that will inevitably accompany today's announcement."

Mr Brown is expected to announce average spending increases for health and education of 4 per cent a year in real terms from 1999 to 2002. He will also outline a £1 billion package that will offer pensioners a guaranteed minimum income.

The settlement is the result of more than 50 meetings between Mr Blair and Mr Brown, and they put the final touches to the document at Chequers on Saturday. The Prime Minister has written a foreword in which he describes the settlement as a "contract between the centre and departments".

But the extent of the Treasury's control has been demonstrated by a 40-page letter from Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, telling ministers how the money should be used over three years and emphasising the reforms that must take place.

In his foreword to the White Paper, *Modern Public Services for Britain: Investing in Reform*, Mr

Blair says that the big extra sums for health and education have been hard-won. There is an obligation on those spending it "to do so wisely in pursuit of agreed and ambitious targets."

In return for the extra money on education, there must be improved teaching, modern classrooms, smaller class sizes and every school should be linked to the Internet. The NHS will be expected to deliver higher quality care and more modern equipment, to overhaul its computer system and cut waiting lists.

The pay review bodies have been told that their terms of reference are to be changed to make plain that their awards are consistent with the inflation target. Awards should also not conflict with the Government's targets for output and efficiency, such as cutting waiting lists. But the unions are expected to protest that Mr Brown's proposed guidelines are a further curb on the review bodies' independence.

Mr Brown's statement today will also pave the way for an announcement by Harriet Harman on Friday that income support for the poorest pensioners is to rise by £7 a week for couples and by £5 for single people. And a million pensioners who do not claim income support will receive it automatically. The plan is to have a minimum guaranteed pension, an idea that Labour floated in Opposition but did not include in its manifesto because of the cost implications.

Under the new plan, all pensioner couples will get a minimum pension of about £116 a week, up from £109.35 a week, while single pensioners will receive at least £75 a week, up from £70. Those with personal or occupational pensions above the new minimum level will receive no extra cash.



Down and out: Chris Boardman receiving first aid from Tour de France doctor Gerard Porte

### Boardman crashes out of Tour

**CHRIS BOARDMAN**, overall leader of the Tour de France, crashed at speed yesterday and rolled headfirst into a drystone wall, shattering his racing helmet.

Boardman, 29, who was Britain's main hope, was said to be deeply disappointed. He fell during a keenly contested intermediate sprint on the 127-mile second stage after a touch of wheels among a group of riders close to the front of the race. The Belgian rider Johan Bruyneel and Italy's Francesco Casagrande fell in front of him.

Yesterday's stage was the last of three days in Ireland which began with the time-trial prologue in Dublin on Saturday; it is the first time the race has started in a non-continental European country and was said to have been a huge success, generating millions of Irish pounds in publicity. Towns along the route were decked in Tricolours.

Dr Stuttford, page 6

Tour reports, page 46, 48

### 'Crack troops' to fight £7bn benefit fraudsters

By Alexandra Freen, Social Affairs Correspondent

**OFFICIAL** estimates of the amount of money stolen by benefit cheats have been increased from £4 billion to £7 billion a year, sufficient to give every pensioner an extra £10 a week or to cut the tax bill of every taxpaying household by £435 a year.

The figures emerged as Frank Field, Minister for Welfare Reform, announced new proposals for stamping out benefit fraud, which he described as "theft on a grand scale", and for eradicating the culture that enables welfare cheats to go undetected and unpunished.

Although most people would condemn serious organised fraud committed by criminal gangs, he said, there was a degree of sympathy for people living on benefits who supplement their income by occasional earnings that they fail to declare.

Only one person in five felt that this type of fraud was a serious matter.

"In some communities, successful fraudsters are celebrated as having beaten the system. The connection to benefits for others has been lost. In these areas, we want to change people's attitude towards fraud, from condoning it to condemning it," he said.

Publishing a Green Paper, *Beating Fraud is Everyone's Business*, the minister confirmed his intention of creating a body of highly skilled and trained "crack troops" to combat fraud. They would be seen as respected professionals, not as DSS snoots.

Although official figures for fraud range from £2 billion to £7 billion, Mr Field said he did not think that £7 billion was an overestimate. He said that the Department of Social Security hoped to make £7 billion

Continued on page 2, col 5



"Let me through — I'm a carpenter"

### Knowing the drill is a life-saver for British doctor in the bush

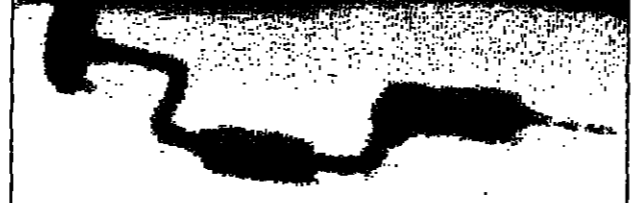
By Daniel McGrory

**A BRITISH** doctor has saved a man's life by performing emergency surgery with a rusty old hand-drill found in a school shed.

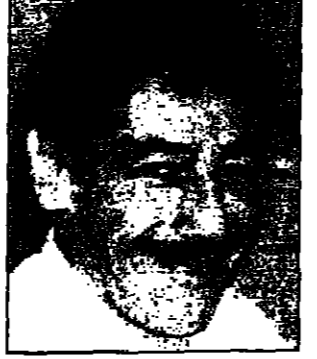
Stephen Hindley was on his second day at work in an isolated Australian hospital when he was forced to try his hand at improvised bush medicine. Hayden McGlinn, 23, had collapsed after colliding head-on with another player in an Australian rules football game; Dr Hindley realised that he had a blood clot on the brain and had only minutes to live.

He knew that he had to drill a hole in the patient's skull to relieve the pressure, and with no suitable implements at the Ravensthorpe hospital, he sent Mr McGlinn's teammates to search for a drill. The first one they found at the local dentist's did not work, but then they turned up the discarded hand-drill.

"I told them I didn't care what sort of drill they got me, just grab anything," Dr Hindley said. "It was like playing Flying Doctors with some basic DIY and prayer."



The rusty old drill that Dr Stephen Hindley (below, left) used to save Hayden McGlinn (right)



After sterilising the bit and consulting neurosurgeons at the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth, 300 miles away, Dr Hindley went ahead with the operation. The procedure worked and Mr McGlinn was



in a stable condition in the Perth hospital last night. "I don't want to sound like some hero, because in bush medicine you have to improvise," Dr Hindley said. "The fact that all his teammates could

find was a rusty DIY drill bit was a secondary worry to be me to doing nothing."

He had telephoned the Perth doctors for a "swift A to Z of what I was supposed to do with a bit and brace on a dying man's skull. Like all doctors, I know the principles, but never thought I would have to bother with the practicalities."

At the Perth hospital, a spokeswoman said: "The boy's condition deteriorated so quickly that if he had not done what he did, he would definitely have died before they got him to hospital." And Mr McGlinn's father described Dr Hindley's work as "the best bush medicine we have ever seen".

Dr Hindley in turn paid tribute to fellow staff who turned up to help him through his "baptism of fire". The 42-year-old doctor had just emigrated from Cornwall and was only 36 hours into a month-long stint as a locum in Ravensthorpe. He is due to take up a post as a GP in Tasmania at the end of the month, when he will be joined by his wife and three children.

Dr Stuttford, page 6

### Two held over boys' murder

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

**TWO** men were arrested in connection with the sectarian murders of the three young Quinn brothers yesterday as Northern Ireland pulled back from the brink of self-destruction.

The level of violence plummeted in a province sobered by the horror of those killings, though the Army had to defuse a 500lb car bomb left by a republican splinter group in Newry last night.

Orangemen participated in scores of muted July 12 parades, almost all of which passed peacefully. By early evening there were only a few hundred protestors at Drumcree, though more were expected later.

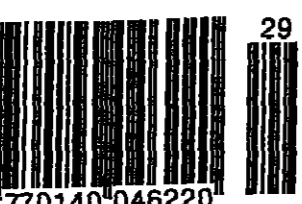
One of the biggest and most subdued processions of all will take place this morning when Richard, Mark and Jason Quinn — aged 11, nine and eight — are buried in the village of Rasharkin.

Silent parade, page 19

INTERNATIONAL calls UPTO **66%** CHEAPER than BT? THINK st

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Tunisia Din 3.200, USA \$3.50.



### Octav Botnar dies in exile

**Octav Botnar**, who was at the centre of fraud allegations involving the Nissan UK car-importing empire he built up, has died at the age of 84.

The millionaire businessman, who arrived in Britain from Romania in 1967, had spent his last years as a tax exile in Switzerland while fighting the inland Revenue. Pages 21, 25

### Nike denies part in Ronaldo mystery

**THE** mystery over why Ronaldo, the world's best footballer, was allowed to play for Brazil in the World Cup final against France when he was unfit deepened last night as the team management admitted the player had suffered a convulsive fit only hours before kick-off and reports from South America suggested commercial pressures had

forced the hand of the coach, Mario Zagallo. Ronaldo was left out of the starting line-up because he had apparently suffered some form of seizure at the team hotel and then reinstated when he made a belated arrival at the stadium and said that he had recovered.

"It was a tremendous scare for me," Ronaldo told Brazil-

ian television. "We lost the World Cup but I won another cup: my life. I do not remember properly, but I went to sleep and then it seems I had a fit for 30 or 40 seconds. I woke up then and my whole body was in pain."

Ronaldo's performance in the unexpected 3-0 defeat was lacklustre and followed a dressing-room fracas. The

Brazil team was in such a state of disarray it did not even appear for the pre-match warm-up. Nike, the sports-wear manufacturer that has a £250 million deal with the Brazilian Football Federation, denies it tried to influence the selection of Ronaldo.

France celebrates, page 11  
World Cup, pages 42, 43, 48

# Straw poll reveals a quiet confidence in the status quo

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Rules on school exam tables tightened

Schools are to be stopped from boosting their ranking in exam league tables by excluding problem pupils, under government proposals published yesterday.

Ministers are recommending that pupils excluded for up to two years before GCSE exams should be incorporated in the league table results, even if they never sat an exam.

Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, said: "Firm action will be taken to stop such abuses of the system. Exclusions in such circumstances damage the children concerned and deceive parents and the public." Despite efforts to reduce exclusion of pupils, the number has risen by 200 to 12,700 in the last year.

## Winner in law

Kamlesh Bahl, 42, who chairs the Equal Opportunities Commission, was elected deputy vice-president of the Law Society of England and Wales. She is the first woman to be an office holder and is believed to be the first to come from the ethnic minorities in the society's 150-year history.

## Gay fight fails

Terry Perkins, a Royal Navy nurse sacked for being gay, failed in his attempt to challenge the legality of his 1995 dismissal. He had been granted leave to go to the European Court of Justice, but a High Court judge said EU legislation applied to discrimination on gender grounds.

## Animal checks

STRICTER checks are likely to be introduced by the Government to ensure that farm animals intended for export are healthy and fit to travel. Proposals call for specially selected and trained vets — paid for by exporters — to examine the livestock before it is sent abroad.

## Separatist jailed

A Sikh separatist was jailed for four years yesterday at the Old Bailey for offences linked to a plot to assassinate a senior Indian policeman visiting Britain. Jagroop Bathi, 45, a shopworker in West London, was convicted of two gun charges but acquitted of conspiracy to kill the officer.

## Firemen's hoax

Paul Roberts, 32, a firefighter of Childwall, Liverpool, admitted making hoax 999 calls to earn his colleagues overtime payments. He had denied the charges at an earlier trial that had collapsed, but changed his plea yesterday. He was further remanded on bail to July 28 for sentence.

UNTIL elected last year for Bromsgrove, Julie Kirkbride wrote for *The Daily Telegraph*. Now she takes an interest in electronic tagging. She was attentive at Questions yesterday as the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, explained that, in a pilot scheme, tagging had proved successful in 80 per cent of the cases.

Miss Kirkbride: "He says 80 per cent were successful. Can he tell us about the remaining 20 per cent?"

Mr Straw: "They were unsuccessful." "No wonder the *Telegraph's* sales are falling," shouted some Labour wag.

But it was good-humoured. Sessions led by Straw tend to be rather civilised. Of all the Prime Minister's Cabinet team, none has emerged more strongly this year than Jack Straw. In Opposition he came across as unoriginal: a Buddy Holly lookalike duffed up by Michael Howard. But the Home Secretary's job destroyed Mr Howard: it is proving to be the making of Mr Straw.

He gives an appearance of rising above politics: a decent, balanced and thoughtful administrator with a firm grip on his job. If his party ever tired of the politics of ecstasy it is possible to imagine him as a safety-first candidate, in the running to lead it.

Yesterday he was leading a campaign within it. To say Straw was leading opposition to changing Britain's electoral system might sound overstated — for the Home Secretary was non-committal, carefully judged, in his replies. But there was no mistaking the tone.

Nor was there any mistaking the mood of the House. MPs who doubt the mission of Lord (Roy) Jenkins's committee (to find an alternative to the status quo) are growing in confidence and noise. Heads appear above parapets. It struck this sketchwriter that, the commission being the Prime Minister's idea rather than his party's, the loss of a



MATTHEW PARRIS  
POLITICAL SKETCH

few feathers from his wing in recent days may have given heart to PR-sceptics.

Nick St Aubyn (C, Guildford) asked what assessment the Home Secretary had made of the benefits of the present system: first-past-the-post. Mr Straw said he had spent these out at length in a recent debate: it was "important to provide" an assessment of both sides to the question.

"Fifty per cent of this House" favoured the status quo," said Mr St

Aubyn. "More!" shouted many MPs on both Tory and Labour benches. "Even a Tory can be right," cackled David Winnick (Lab, Walsall N).

The numbers, said Straw, "are certainly quite substantial". But it would be up to the British people in the end.

The Home Secretary was careful not to sound partisan. Curiously, it was in his answers to Tories too blinkered to realise he was on their side that he let his colours show. The Principal Opposition has been mounting a misguided campaign of protest against the Jenkins Commission's remit: to identify an alternative voting system without weighing the merits of the existing one.

As Straw told them yesterday, PR-

sceptics are best served by not asking Jenkins to assess the benefits of the status quo. The reason (though Straw did not voice it) was obvious. Jenkins is a passionate believer in electoral change. His Commission would recommend change — something they are now barred from doing.

The process Straw defended yesterday leaves people like him free to defend the Commission's work, agree (when it makes its recommendations) that these are indeed the best alternative to the status quo — and opt for the status quo. This is too subtle for many Tories.

On yesterday's mood, this sketchwriter would swap betting on electoral change.

# Blunkett tells peers not to overstep powers in fees vote

By James Landale, Political Reporter

DAVID BLUNKETT today warns peers that they will be overstepping their powers if they insist on challenging the Government again over variable rates of student tuition fees in Scotland.

Writing in *The Times*, the Education and Employment Secretary gives his strongest warning yet that if the House of Lords refuses to back down, it will put at risk the Government's entire package of higher education funding reforms.

He says "it cannot be right for the unelected House" to challenge the Commons again. But he also offers the possibility of an independent review of fee arrangements in Scottish universities.

MPs were last night expected to overturn for a third time a Lords attempt to take the so-called "Scottish anomaly" out of the Teaching and Higher Education Bill. English, Welsh and Northern Irish students at Scottish universities would have to pay fees for four years — the normal length of courses north of the border — while their Scottish counterparts would pay for three. The Lords last week voted by the largest majority against a Government since 1913 to insist that all students in Scotland be exempted from the fourth year of fees. Peers



Blunkett says Lords are risking reform package

tions to Scottish universities. Mr Blunkett adds: "Finally, there is an important constitutional issue. It is right that the House of Lords should scrutinise, but having had its advice rejected now three times by the elected House, on a matter with financial consequences, it cannot be right for the unelected House yet again to refuse to accept that decision. Any further delay risks the Bill not getting Royal Assent in time for the new student support arrangements to be put in place for the intake of students this October. No responsible person could contemplate that."

The Bill is expected to go back to the Lords today. Last night it was unclear whether the Tories or the Liberal Democrats would try to put forward another amendment. Some senior Tory sources felt the Lords had done enough, but others said the scale of the vote against the Government last week meant that peers "had their dander up" and wanted to continue the fight.

The Liberal Democrats hinted that they might fight on. Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat Education spokesman, said: "Given that we believe that the Government is wrong, we will give them



Cherie Booth is given a lesson in how to use a specially-designed computer mouse by Naomi and Carina Burton, 14, at the new offices of Scope, the organisation for people for cerebral palsy, in Holloway, London

every opportunity to come to their senses and accept the error of their ways."

In a fresh demonstration of the willingness of the House of Lords to challenge the Government, peers last night defeated ministers for a 28th time since the election. The Lords voted by a majority of 69 to reject part of the School Standards and Framework Bill. Peers objected to the creation of school committees which could override local education authority plans.

This is the description of what happens when MPs and peers cannot agree on a particular part of a Bill and bounce it to-and-fro between both Houses.

The Teaching and Higher Education Bill, which contains the "Scottish anomaly", began life in the Lords at the end of 1997. Peers first voted to remove the anomaly in January this year. The Bill then went to the Commons for the first time, and MPs reinserted the anomaly. The measure returned to

# Why game of ping pong is a trial of strength

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE parliamentary trial of strength between the Lords and the Government over variable rates of student tuition fees in Scotland is known as "ping pong".

This is the description of what happens when MPs and peers cannot agree on a particular part of a Bill and bounce it to-and-fro between both Houses.

The Teaching and Higher Education Bill, which contains the "Scottish anomaly", began life in the Lords at the end of 1997. Peers first voted to remove the anomaly in January this year. The Bill then went to the Commons for the first time, and MPs reinserted the anomaly. The measure returned to

the Lords for peers to consider the MPs' amendments. On most occasions, peers accept the will of the Commons. On this occasion, they voted again to remove the anomaly. The Bill then pinged and panged between the Houses.

Peers have now defied the Government three times. They are able to do this because they have tried to remove the anomaly with differently worded amendments. These are known as amendments in lieu.

If peers had insisted that exactly the same initial amendment remained in the Bill, and the Commons had insisted that it did not, then the whole measure would automatically die.

But by voting on amendments in lieu, the Lords are technically asking the Com-

mons to consider a new amendment which has not been considered by MPs before. As such, peers are in theory not challenging the agreed will of the Commons.

This process of ping pong can continue until peers run out of amendments in lieu which are acceptable to the clerks or the parliamentary session ends, at which point the Bill would die. The latter is extremely unlikely.

Because the Bill originated in the Lords, the Government cannot invoke the Parliament Acts of 1911 and 1949 to force the measure through without Lords agreement in the next session of Parliament. Even if the Government had this power, it would not want to invoke it because the Bill would be effectively delayed by a year.

## Firemen's hoax

Paul Roberts, 32, a firefighter of Childwall, Liverpool, admitted making hoax 999 calls to earn his colleagues overtime payments. He had denied the charges at an earlier trial that had collapsed, but changed his plea yesterday. He was further remanded on bail to July 28 for sentence.

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## £7bn fraud

Continued from page 1

In savings from its anti-fraud measures over three years. The cost of implementing the measures for this year would be more than £400 million.

A ministerial task force on combating fraud, chaired by Mr Field, would be created and the Department of Social Security would be required to publish an annual audit describing anti-fraud activities, estimates of the scale of fraud and policy initiatives.

The Government would also be reviewing the benefit rules that are most frequently broken to see if they are impractical or unworkable, Mr Field said.

In particular, ministers would be looking at suspected fraud around the rule that reduces income-related benefit when earnings exceed £5 a week, the rules that mean two people living as a couple get less benefit than two people living together as individuals and the rule that reduces income-related benefits when a person's capital exceeds £3,000.

Officials believe that fraud around three rules alone could account for £1.7 billion in fraudulent claims: for income support/jobseeker's allowance, invalid care allowance and housing benefit.

They will be examining whether the way the rules are framed is making fraud virtually inevitable. The £5 limit on earnings, for example, has not been changed since 1988 and may need to be raised.

The Green Paper also proposed more active management of fraud cases. Information technology systems would be improved to enable different agencies to share and cross-check information. Greater co-operation will be encouraged between central and local government and other public bodies involved with benefits.

## Draper will still stage Labour seminar

By Andrew Pierce and Jill Sherman

AN organisation founded by Derek Draper, the lobbyist at the centre of the cash-for-access row, is pressing ahead with a seminar on how government ministers could be more effective.

Tony Blair has endorsed the summer school staged by Progress, a political education body, at the end of July.

The disclosure comes amid growing pressure for the row over lobbyists to be referred to the Neill Committee on Standards in Public Life. John MacGregor, a former Cabinet minister and member of the committee, said there was a case for examining the links between special advisers and lobbying groups.

The star turn at the Progress weekend forum is Roger Liddle, the Downing Street policy unit official accused of using his position to help Mr Draper's business. He is delivering a lecture called "The Cabinet Game: role play with Roger Liddle". Mr Draper, sole director of Progress, is planning to attend the high-profile event. Peter Hain, the Welsh Office Minister, and John Spellar, the Defence Minister, have been booked for the seminar near Grantham on July 31.

Tony Blair gave the project his blessing in the advance publicity printed before the cash for access controversy. He described the seminars as "an excellent opportunity for members of the government and grassroots activists" to discuss key issues and generate vital feedback.

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CHANGING TIMES

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# Hypnotist's subject claims £250,000 for mental illness

Volunteer said to have suffered from schizophrenia after stage show, reports Deborah Colcutt

A STAGE hypnotist triggered a schizophrenic reaction in one of the participants in his show, leaving him with long-term psychiatric problems and unable to work, the High Court was told yesterday. Christopher Gates, who was said to have strutted across the stage like Mick Jagger and acted as a naughty schoolboy, is claiming £250,000 from Paul McKenna for lost earnings and damages. The court was told that as a result of being hypnotised during a show in 1994, Mr Gates, who had no prior history of mental illness, had developed aggressive and childlike behaviour and nine days after the show had been admitted to a psychiatric hospital suffering from an acute schizophrenic episode. Anthony Scrivener, QC, said that since then, Mr Gates, 29, a qualified French polisher who was made redundant in 1995, had received regular counselling and had taken medication every day to control his schizophrenia. He had

been taken off medication for a short period but had resumed when paranoid symptoms returned. Mr Scrivener said that in March 1994 Mr Gates, from High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire, had taken his girlfriend, Beverley Gibbs, to Mr McKenna's show at the Swan Theatre in the town and had volunteered to be hypnotised. In the course of the 24-hour show, during which Mr Gates had been held in a trance for most of the time, including throughout the interval, Mr McKenna had instructed him to take on various personas and act out different scenarios. As well as impersonating Mick Jagger and a schoolboy, he had been told to believe he was a ballet dancer and used a shoe as a telephone to receive the news that he had won £1 million. Next, Mr Gates had been told to imagine he was a contestant on the television show *Blind Date*, conduct an orchestra and work as an interpreter for aliens. Mr McKenna, who denies



Gates said to be on permanent medication

negligence, was in court yesterday to hear Mr Scrivener tell Mr Justice Toulson that he was not qualified to practise hypnosis. "The defendant has no medical qualifications and no formal hypnotherapy qualifications, but holds himself out as an expert." He alleged that the local authority had not issued a license for the show and told the court that subsequent appearances by Mr McKenna were authorised and attended by a council environmental health officer accompanied by a psychiatrist. The court was told that

when Mr Gates "seemed changed and prone to fits of hysterical laughter" after the show, Miss Gibbs had contacted Mr McKenna, who had spoken to Mr Gates on the telephone and advised him to seek medical help, recommending a private therapist. Mr McKenna, of Kensington, West London, who has since given up his live and televised shows, had told Miss Gibbs that when hypnotising Mr Gates he had "spoken to both concepts of his mind, the angry and the scared concepts". When she appears as a witness today, Miss Gibbs is expected to tell the court that Mr Gates developed a particular fear of religion and was forced to miss the funeral of a colleague and a family wedding because he was too scared to enter a church. He is also said to have become an obsessive viewer of the television lottery show and *Coronation Street*, believing that he is being sent subliminal messages from the pub in the soap to cut down on his alcohol intake. Mr Scrivener said that Mr Gates was unable to sleep alone at nights and had developed an irrational fear of death linked to the memory of a childhood tragedy involving



Paul McKenna with his manager, Clare Staples, outside the High Court yesterday. He denies negligence

a family dog that had died. It was a memory that Mr McKenna had awakened and been unable to "close" because of insufficient expertise. Mr Scrivener said: "Merely counting down from 20 to zero, then saying 'wakey, wakey' is not sufficient." Describing Mr McKenna's

background, Mr Scrivener said he had run in-store entertainment at a shopping centre in London before becoming a disc jockey. In 1985 he had become interested in hypnosis and realised he had a knack that could be used for entertainment. Apart from his shows, he

had given lectures on the topic and claimed to have a PhD from an American university. He had provided hypnotherapy for private clients, including some famous people, and produced audio tapes designed to help people to succeed. Mr Scrivener said Mr Mc-

Kenna, a member of the Federation of Ethical Stage Hypnotists, must have been aware that no-one knew the mechanics of hypnosis and that it could be dangerous when used as entertainment without the usual consulting room safeguards. The case continues.



Robert Towersey, his wife Julie, and her lover, the solicitor Gareth Jessop

## Solicitor 'pulled gun on lover's husband'

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PARTNER in a leading firm of solicitors pulled a gun on his lover's husband during a violent confrontation, a court was told yesterday. Gareth Jessop, of Pannone & Partners of Manchester, was said to have armed himself with a loaded Colt 45 semi-automatic from his private collection after two earlier disturbances involving Robert Towersey. Then on June 15 last year, Mr Towersey had arrived at the house Mr Jessop shared with Mr Towersey's wife, Julie, a secretary at his law firm. The two men had struggled and Mr Towersey had seized the gun and fired a shot into the floor. Mr Jessop, 30, a gun enthusiast who held the weapon legally, denies charges of possessing a firearm with intent to endanger life and with intent to cause a person to believe that unlawful violence would be used against him. Simon Nichol, for the prosecution, told Bradford Crown Court that Julie Hurn, 30, Mr Towersey's wife, had left him eight weeks before the incident and moved into Mr Jessop's home at Reddish, Stockport. Her husband, a Territorial Army corporal, had twice called at the house demanding to see his wife. On one occasion he had used his Land Rover to ram Mr Jessop's car and on the other he had slashed bedding with a knife. As a consequence he had been arrested and remanded in custody. Mr Jessop had gone away for a week with Ms Hurn to get away from the pressure but had discovered when they returned that Mr Towersey had been granted bail. They had been convinced Mr Towersey would return shortly, so Mr Jessop had chosen a weapon and loaded it. Mr Towersey, 31, told the court that when he arrived Mr Jessop refused to let him speak to his wife and slammed the

door in his face. He said: "I did something I know I should not have done. I punched the door glass and undid the chain. "When I went inside I saw Jessop about 7ft away, pointing what I knew from TA experience to be a large-calibre automatic at me. He was in the doorway in the combat crouch position. I rushed him, knocking the gun to one side and punched him." There was a struggle, during which Mr Towersey disarmed Mr Jessop and threw him to the floor. Mr Nichol said: "For a moment Mr Towersey considered shooting himself, but he changed his mind. He knew there was a live round in the breach so he fired it into the floor. Afterwards Mr Jessop had allegedly told him: "I just could not bring myself to do it." Mr Nichol said that the Crown took that to mean Mr Jessop had considered shooting Mr Towersey. The trial continues.

ing. The prosecution case is being outlined at a committal hearing before a stipendiary magistrate, who will decide if there is a case to answer at Crown Court. Reporting restrictions have been lifted. The prosecution said that, after Mr Leeming's death, the family members continued to indulge their lavish lifestyles. Jayne Leeming, a single mother on benefits, signed a contract to buy a £160,000 house soon after the killing, bought an expensive car and a £7,000 horsebox to transport her pony. Stephen Leeming continued to draw £400 a week from the firm although he was off sick. He also bought a £25,000 sports car. The court was told, Jackie Leeming drew £200 a week from the business. The three, with Malcolm Herbert, 37, secretary of the company they owned, face charges of conspiracy to murder and fraudulent trading. The committal hearing continues today.

## Family accused of hiring hitman to murder father

By RUSSELL JENKINS

THE wife and children of a retired army major hired a hitman to murder him because he stood in the way of their extravagant lifestyle, York Magistrates' Court was told yesterday. Geoffrey Leeming, 63, was stabbed through the heart by an unknown assailant in October 1996 as he went to check a lock in the darkened garage of his bungalow while his wife watched television. A bloodstained kitchen knife was found on a grass verge beside the couple's home at the end of a cul-de-sac in Haxby, near York. It had been placed to look as if discarded by a chance intruder, the court was told. The prosecution claims that the dead man's wife, Jackie, 55, daughter Jayne, 30, of Wigginton, near York, and son Stephen, 33, of



Jackie Leeming faces a conspiracy charge

Stockton-on-the-Forest, also near York, wanted Mr Leeming out of the way so they could continue milking the finances of the family's ailing drainage business. The three, with Malcolm Herbert, 37, secretary of the company they owned, face charges of conspiracy to murder and fraudulent trading. The committal hearing continues today.

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# A landscape strewn with casualties and not a victor in sight

DRUMCREE FOUR — the worst to date of Northern Ireland's annual descents into anarchy and mayhem — is effectively over, but the clearing smoke reveals a landscape strewn with casualties and not a victor in sight.

On the one side are the charred bodies of the three young Quinn boys who were burnt alive by loyalist thugs and who will be buried today. On the other are the littered and discredited remnants of the Orange Order, the Christian organisation whose leaders stood by as their protest was hijacked by terrorists bent on bringing North-

ern Ireland to its knees. Other sorry groups stand in little huddles.

There are the Paisleyites and other Unionist opponents of the Good Friday peace accord who shamelessly sought to exploit the protest to achieve what they could not win through the ballot box. There are the church leaders who failed to denounce the wickedness wrought in the name of Christianity — from the Church of Ireland's Drumcree building emanated all manner of profanity and lethal attack on the security forces.

There are the leaders of the

nationalist Garvaghy Road residents whose self-righteous intransigence matched that of the Orangemen. Nor did the Sinn Féin leadership — which did nothing to encourage compromise — emerge with credit from the first big test of its commitment to a new order.

Beyond these groups the devastation extends as far and wide. There is the legacy of seven consecutive nights of wanton destruction — 178 hijacked vehicles, 295 damaged homes and buildings, 466 cars and the scorched remains of countless barricades.

There is the rubble of Northern

Ireland's tourist industry, and the ashes to which all those hopes of massive inward investment have been reduced. Picking their way through this debris are literally scores of Catholic families driven from their homes on loyalist estates by what can only be described as ethnic cleansing.

The very few who are leaving the battlefield with their honour intact include the Royal Ulster Constabulary, which did not flinch in the face of loyalism's full fury — no nationalist can any longer accuse the force of being the military branch of Unionism. They include

the Army and they include David Trimble and Seamus Mallon, Northern Ireland's First and Deputy First Ministers, who courageously resisted the temptation to scurry back to their tribal enclaves at the first whiff of gunpowder.

It was hard for both men, but particularly Mr Trimble — a Unionist, an Orangeman and Portadown's MP. His natural sympathies lay with the Orangemen, his natural constituency, but as First Minister he had to uphold the rule of law. As the security situation deteriorated and sectari-

an divisions widened, his position became increasingly precarious. In the end it was the murders of the three Quinn boys that saved both him and the new Assembly by bringing the Province to its senses, but it was a terrible price to pay.

This has been an astonishing year in Northern Ireland. The peace process has survived bombs, killings and walkouts. It has survived the marathon bout of talks that produced the accord. It has survived the hard-fought referendum on that accord, and equally hard-fought Assembly elections. It has now survived Drumcree Four.

its biggest crisis yet and just possibly the worst is over. The bond between Mr Trimble and Mr Mallon, between the leaders of reasonable Unionism and moderate nationalism, has been tested by fire and held.

The perennial issue of IRA disarmament still looms, but the Paisleyites no longer occupy the moral high ground. It was not the republicans who resorted to force to achieve their ends these past nine days. It was their own men — the loyalists.

MARTIN FLETCHER

## Orange loses to black in Belfast's parade of silence

By PETER FOSTER

THE clash of silences on Belfast's Lower Ormeau Road yesterday was almost deafening. Two communities, Protestant and Catholic, met and looked each other scornfully in the eye. No one said a word.

In previous years, Orangemen and Catholics have had to be held apart forcibly in this sectarian tinderbox, but yesterday the Catholics vented their anger in a peaceful but equally demonstrative way. As the Orangemen of Ballynateigh paraded down the Ormeau Road past pubs and shops where loyalists have killed republicans, the Catholic residents stood silently holding black flags as a reminder of their dead.

Women and children held up placards which summed up their views of the Orange

order decision not to reroute the march after the weekend deaths of three Catholic boys in an arson attack. They read simply: "Shame".

The Orangemen were silent too, because the Parades Commission had banned them from banging their drums and whistling on their flutes which so inflame Catholic feelings. The instant they stepped on to Protestant soil, the bands struck up *The Sash*, the tune calculated to cause most offence.

On the same march in 1992, Orangemen from the Ballynateigh Lodge danced and gave five-fingered salutes while the RUC used Land Rovers and riot shields to keep the Catholic residents off the street. Yesterday, only a light scattering of RUC officers was

necessary to keep the peace. Black flags were hung from every window and lamp post in memories of Catholics who had died in sectarian violence during the past 30 years. Hundreds more were held aloft by Catholic residents who lined the route to protest at the Parades Commission's decision to allow the Orangemen to march up the Lower Ormeau Road for the first time in two years. Many could not find a square of black fabric in their homes improvised with rubbish bags.

Despite the bitter history of this march, the protests remained peaceful thanks to the constant attentions of Catholic leaders. As the thump-thump of the approaching Orange bands came drifting down the road, Gerard Rice and John Gormley of the Lower Ormeau residents group walked up and down the pavement counselling the young men to stay calm: "Whatever happens, not a word," said Mr Rice to a group of young men. "We will be dignified and peaceful."

The tension was heightened when the parade was delayed by about half-an-hour following a security alert outside the Ballynateigh Orange hall. Two controlled explosions were heard as the bomb squad used a remote control robot to



Protesters hold up a black flag and newspapers featuring pictures of the three dead children as the parade passes yesterday



Orangemen march in the rain. Most kept quiet

investigate suspect packages. Security sources said the warning telephoned to the Samaritans had used INLA codewords.

As if on cue, rain started to fall shortly after 9am as the Orange parade crossed the Ormeau Bridge which marks the beginning of the Catholic section of the road. Holding

their banners and wearing bowler hats, the Orangemen stared straight ahead. Once or twice, was discipline broken as one elderly, drenched Orangeman in his shirt sleeves said audibly to a fellow marcher: "What's with all the black flags? Has someone's granny died?" The Catholics on the far side of the road did not break ranks.

Aside from the black flags, the Catholics, always alert to a good media opportunity, released several hundred black balloons which floated above the parade to the delight of cameramen from all around the world who had come to observe the proceedings.

Throughout the build-up to this march, the Catholic side has consistently pandered to the media while the Orangemen have hidden behind a wall of silence. The Lower Ormeau residents group have made sure that what Gerry Adams described as their "magnanimous and generous

initiative" was not missed by anybody.

As the Orange parade passed into Protestant territory, the rain clouds parted and the Ormeau Road was bathed in bright sunlight.

After the march had passed onto the Havelock Bridge, which marks the end of the Catholic stretch of the Lower Ormeau Road, the media offensive continued.

Gerard Rice, who walked back down the street applauding his people for their show of restraint, immediately mounded a soap box to address the crowd.

He was quick to point out how the Orange bands had chosen to strike up the two tunes calculated to cause maximum offence the instant they reached the Protestant side of the bridge.

Mr Rice said: "The first band played *The Sash*, the second played *No Surrender*." He asked: "Where is the change in that?"

## Order's rallying cry fails at Drumcree

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IT HAD been billed as the climax of the Orange Order protest at Drumcree. Tens of thousands of Orangemen were scheduled to show solidarity with the Portadown men blocked from walking down Garvaghy Road.

But scarcely anybody arrived yesterday, leaving ten burger vans without custom. Even Portadown Orangemen stayed away. The Portadown Order had asked their 1,400 members to gather at Drumcree church at 10am. By lunchtime, there were fewer than 500.

The Order blamed the wet weather and the lure of parades elsewhere. But the people of Portadown stayed

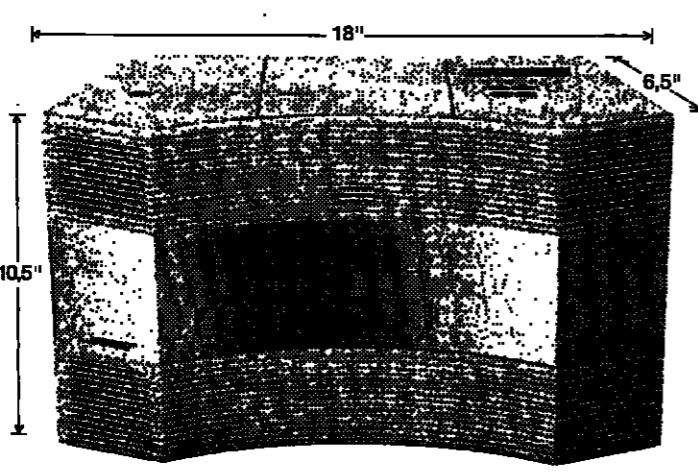
at home or went to the park. "I had planned going and taking the kids, but not after what happened to the three boys in Ballymoney — it doesn't seem right," said one Protestant who walked with his children in the town park.

With the support of five bands, yesterday's marchers went to the frontline to face down the police and Army. The security forces lowered their profile to match the receding Orange threat.

The Portadown Order has pledged to maintain a presence until its members can return to the centre of the town along their traditional route. One said: "A principle is a principle."

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## Catholic theologian to marry pupil nun 23 years his junior

By DEBORAH COLLICUTT

THE Dominican order was shocked last night by the announcement by one of its friars and leading academics that he has renounced his vows of celibacy to marry one of his pupils, a former sister, who is 20 years his junior.

The Rev Paul Parvis, 52, has already resigned as head of an Oxford theological college and is engaged to marry Sara Dudley Edwards, 29, at a register office in Scotland in the autumn.

The couple first met four years ago when Miss Dudley Edwards, who took temporary vows to become a Dominican sister, was studying in Oxford, where the American-born Father Parvis was Regent of Studies. His decision to leave

## Calls for ban on do-it-yourself DNA testing kit

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE chairman of the Commons Health Select Committee called yesterday for a do-it-yourself DNA testing kit, which checks a child's paternity, to be banned.

The DNA Testing Agency has placed newspaper advertisements for the £298 kit, which can be used at home and does not require a blood sample. The test — targeted at men who have "nagging doubts" about whether a child is theirs — involves taking a swab from the child's mouth. There is then a five-week wait for the result.

The Human Genetics Advisory Committee yesterday raised doubts about the tests, and David Hinchliffe, chairman of the Health Select Committee, called for them to be banned. He told BBC Radio: "It's the children who could suffer most. I think they [the firm] are blundering into a dangerous area. They are

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### Estate keeper denies badger deaths

By Helen Johnstone

A DIARY found at the home of a gamekeeper listed the killing of wild animals, including more than a hundred badgers, a court was told yesterday.

Magistrates at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, were told that the animals were killed on Sir Francis Dashwood's estate at West Wycombe, where Leslie Morris was a gamekeeper.

The journal allegedly found in Mr Morris's cottage catalogued the deaths of the badgers and also many foxes, cats, dogs and protected species.

Mr Morris, 28, who was employed by the Bradenham Hill shooting syndicate, denies killing an unknown number of badgers, interfering with a sett, illegally setting snares and killing a buzzard and a sparrowhawk.

Abi Nixon, for the prosecution, told the court: "The defendant saw badgers as vermin and boasted how he intended to rid the area of them."

Jason Runciman, a former underkeeper at the estate, told the court he gave up his job after nine years because he did not like what was going on. "I became aware Les was shooting badgers, hawks and buzzards. He never kept the carcasses. He put them down holes."

He said that Mr Morris had filled in a badger sett by pouring creosote down it and blocking it with chicken wire, and that he had seen a vixen shot and her cubs fed live to terriers.

Mr Runciman denied during cross-examination that he was acting out of malice because he had a grudge to settle against his former employers.

The case continues.

## Baby 'murdered by childminder in fit of temper'

A five-month-old boy was like a 'rag doll' after he was allegedly shaken by his carer, reports Michael Horsnell

A REGISTERED childminder accused of murdering a five-month-old baby shook him in a "fit of temper" just four days after starting the job, a jury was told yesterday.

Joseph Mackin was like a "rag doll" when his father arrived at Helen Stacey's house to collect him, Norwich Crown Court was told that the normally happy baby was shaken by Mrs Stacey, now 41, and had suffered fatal brain haemorrhaging.

Mrs Stacey, from North Walsham, Norfolk, who has four children of her own, had been placed on the official list of registered childminders less than five months earlier by Norfolk County Council's social services department.

During police interviews, she allegedly injected "little bits of poison" against the baby's parents, Anthony Mackin, an air traffic controller at RAF Coltishall, and his wife Corinne, a nursing assistant, in an attempt to shift responsibility for the death.

Mrs Stacey, a former pensions administrator with Norwich Union, denies murdering Joseph at her home on May 13 last year, two days after he had been christened.

David Stokes, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury of



Joseph Mackin was a happy, contented baby

eight women and four men that the cause of death was head injuries from shaking and possibly also the baby being thrown onto a cot mattress or sofa.

At the beginning of last year, Mrs Mackin - who also has a daughter Samantha, aged three - decided to return to work at the Little Plumstead Hospital near Norwich and needed someone to care for her children. Mrs Mackin, 36, herself a former childminder, told the jury she had been happy to engage Mrs Stacey after receiving the list of childcarers because she was

safety and security conscious, and had a daughter slightly older than Joseph.

On the day he died, she had left for work at 6.20am, having fed him and changed his nappy. Mrs Mackin said: "That morning he was fine, his usual smiling self. He was kicking about and making cooing noises. He had rosy cheeks because he was teething. When I left the house, he was just lying in the cot looking at his mobile. He was fine. Joseph was a chubby baby. He was very contented and used to smile at anybody."

After receiving a call from her husband that evening, she rushed to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospitals' accident and emergency department. "My husband came out to greet me and told me he had died," she said.

Four days later, Mrs Mackin was told by police that the death was being treated as suspicious. She said that Mrs Stacey had made no attempt to contact her.

Mr Mackin, 32, said that in the evening when he arrived to pick up his children, Mrs Stacey had appeared "very nervous" and said that Joseph had been "snuffly and grizzly". "I thought it odd initially. She said she didn't have the doctor's telephone number. I found it strange because I was sure that that was information my wife had given her," Mr Mackin said.

"He was very sleepy, the skin round his eyes was quite dark and there was a blue tinge to his lips. He was slaty grey. As soon as I saw him, I knew there was something dreadfully wrong. I asked if he was breathing and she said, 'Oh, yes.' I bent down to pick him up, and I looked to see if he was breathing. He was, but it was very faint breathing. He was just like a rag doll. He



Helen Stacey denies murdering five-month-old Joseph Mackin, who was in her care

was very floppy." Mr Mackin strapped Joseph into his car and drove quickly to his GP's surgery in North Walsham, where Dr Richard Young attempted resuscitation while awaiting an ambulance.

After all attempts to revive him had failed, Mr Mackin received a telephone call from Mrs Stacey at the hospital. He told the jury: "I told her he was dead. I remember her saying she was 'absolutely gobsmacked' at what had happened."

Mrs Stacey's application to be registered as a childminder was granted in December 1996 after she had passed a

first-aid course. She seemed to be an ideal person for the family's purposes, Mr Stokes said, and the couple paid two visits to her home which they found to be clean, tidy and well equipped.

Under the auspices of the National Childminding Association, the two women signed separate contracts for the care of both Joseph and Samantha. In them, Mrs Mackin listed emergency telephone numbers for the GP as well as both parents' numbers at work.

The children were taken to Mrs Stacey's house on May 8, 1997, for the first time and no difficulties were experienced

for the first three days. Mr Stokes told the jury that some time during the fourth day, "there was an incident in which this defendant lost her temper with this child and shook it, causing devastating fatal injuries". During interviews with police, Mrs Stacey denied any incident had occurred while Joseph was in her care.

Mr Stokes said: "Her behaviour was that of someone with a guilty conscience. Little bits of poison directed against the Mackins was indicative of her willingness to blame anyone save herself."

The case continues.

### Week-old girl dies with her family in house fire

By Joanna Bale

A BABY girl died with her mother and grandparents in a fire at their home early yesterday. The child's father escaped with his brother after the blaze broke out shortly after 2am.

Peter and Linda King, Kay Woodcock and her baby Shannon died after an evening celebrating the birth a week ago. The baby's father, John, 22, and uncle, Jason, 20, were taken to hospital with smoke inhalation and minor injuries.

Firefighters and police officers who attempted a rescue were beaten back by the fierce temperature inside the three-bedroom terrace house in Cudworth, near Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

Sergeant Pat Casserly, of South Yorkshire Police, was the first emergency worker there. He tried to get into the loft of the burning home by climbing into the attic of an adjoining house. "I couldn't get in because the heat was so fierce. I tried to contact the people inside by banging on the wall, but I could get no response. The heat was so intense that the light fittings on a car outside melted."

The homes of more than 30 people living near by were evacuated. One fire officer described the blaze as one of the worst he had seen in 22 years of service. Station Officer John Hyde said: "The heat inside was intense and it took us a long time to get through the front doorway."

Investigators said that although a neighbour had reported hearing an explosion, it may have been the crackling of the blaze. Divisional Fire Officer Kevin Govier said: "At the moment, we don't know what caused the fire." It is believed that it was an accident.

Wayne Tarry, a neighbour, said: "I could see flames billowing out of the windows. Some of the other neighbours were already in the street, and I just prayed that the family had got out OK."



Anthony, left, and Corinne Mackin arriving at court

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Order's rallying... tails at Drummer

Calls for ban on do-it-yourself DNA testing

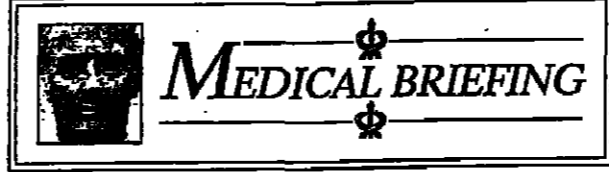
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# Why doctors need to know the drill for a hole in the head

WHEN Dr Steven Hindley used a drill to treat a brain injury in the Australian Outback, he was continuing a medical tradition that has its origins in the Stone Age. The making of a hole through the skull to let out blood or fluid — or, as Stone Age and subsequent medicine men thought, evil spirits — is called trepanning. The name comes from the Greek

"trypanon", meaning an auger, a carpenter's brace and bit. By the late 19th century, doctors were using a trephine which is a crown saw, a circular gauge with a handle like a corkscrew's handle, which neatly removes a disc of bone from the skull. Even at the turn of the century, newly qualified doctors did not buy only a stethoscope

and a torch for looking into eyes and ears like today's medical students, but also a set of instruments including a trephine so that, should they be confronted in some distant spot with a person who needed to have their skull opened, they would be equipped. Dr Hindley's patient must have suffered a bleed over the surface of the brain, as a result of a collision while



playing football. The fluid accumulates under the skull and acts like a slow-growing tumour pressing on the brain. This could have been

extradural, and probably arterial, as the footballer was young. The patient would have had a lucid interval in which

he talked to his team-mates before lapsing into unconsciousness. Having removed a disc of bone, the doctor would hope not only to relieve the pressure of the blood but to find, and tie off, the bleeding artery. A far more common problem is the subdural haematoma, in which the bleeding is slow and from a torn vein. This usually affects older people

whose brains do not quite fit their skulls, but acute subdurals in which the unconsciousness is quickly manifest can affect any age group. The impact does not have to be great, but in time — hours or days — there is increasing weakness and coma, headache, and loss of intellect. Characteristically, the level of consciousness varies. The speed of opera-

tion is all-important. Holes are bored into the skull, the dura, the covering of the brain, is exposed and cut so that the black tarry blood can be removed. This, as the Australians have discovered, can produce a seemingly miraculous cure.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

## Straw unveils plans to end asylum abuses

Richard Ford reports on government plans to halt immigrants' rights to challenge deportation orders

THOUSANDS of asylum-seekers and immigrants will lose the right to challenge deportation orders under proposals unveiled yesterday to streamline the appeal system and cut the £151 million cost.



Straw: "Unscrupulous are milking the system"

Anyone overstaying their admission to the country would no longer have the right to appeal against being deported. Others who have been refused entry would get one right of appeal covering the refusal grounds and their removal.

The package of measures to overhaul the immigration and asylum appeals system is intended to end abuses and hasten appeals. At present, 23,000 people are waiting for an initial decision on their asylum application.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said that reform was needed because the present system had been overwhelmed by numbers, increasingly complex laws and people deliberately abusing it by prolonging cases for so long that it was impractical to get them out of the country.

Mr Straw accused some solicitors and "bent unofficial immigration" advisers of milking the system and encouraging people to string out their applications to be allowed to stay in the country.

"Unscrupulous immigration advisers and unscrupulous solicitors milk large amounts of money out of it," he said. "They are wholly abusive. They just put in another appeal, the longer you are here the more difficult it will be to remove you."

Mr Straw said that too many people were abusing the system at the moment. He said that one of his own constituents, from Gujarat, had been seeking asylum for five years on the basis that he

made in 1996 for a judicial review of an appeal ruling; only 301 were allowed. Mr Straw also wants more appeal hearings to be heard on paper rather than being argued orally.

The consultation paper, issued by the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's Department, also suggests that applicants go outside southeast England, where their cases could be heard in weeks. It also proposes using spare capacity in magistrates' courts to reduce the backlog.

Figures in the consultation paper estimate that the total cost of the appeals system including hearings, legal aid and social benefits has risen from £85 million in 1994-95 to £151 million in 1996-97.

The Refugee Council said that asylum-seekers were being blamed for delays that were not their fault: "There are some positive ideas, like the consolidated appeal, but others, like the proposal to take away the right to an oral hearing, are of great concern."

The council said that it was wrong to view the proposals as a clampdown on asylum-seekers stringing out the procedure. It said that many adjournments in appeal hearings were outside the control of asylum-seekers.

The Refugee Legal Centre said its figures showed that the courts adjourned 769 cases, the Home Office asked for adjournments in 338 cases and the centre asked for 415 adjournments.

Claude Moraes, director of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said: "The Government had to act on the scandalous backlog of over 50,000 cases which has caused suffering to asylum-seekers and their families."

Under the Government's planned changes to the appeals system, the existing two tiers would be replaced with a single mechanism. In an attempt to curb the rise in judicial review applications in asylum and immigration cases, the Home Secretary wants to give the Immigration Appeal Tribunal more authority so that it becomes a court of record headed by a High Court or circuit judge. More than 1,748 applications were

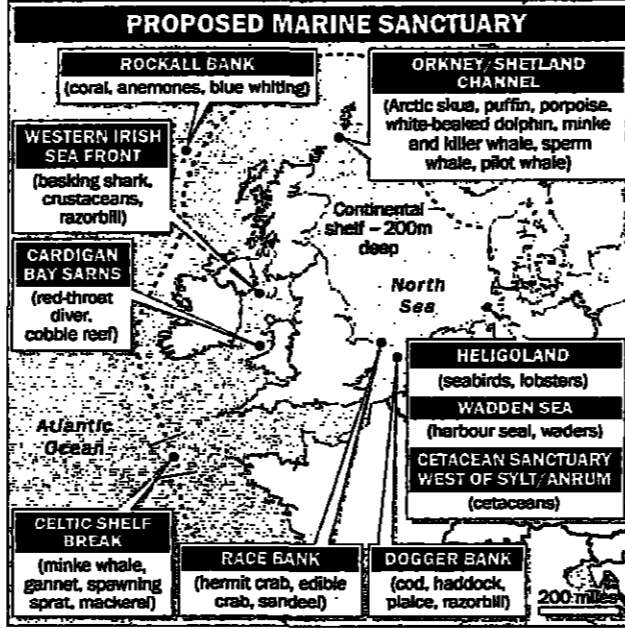
Leading article, page 19  
Law, pages 22, 35-37



Home win: Karen Smith, 37, right, who bought a lottery ticket at an off-licence she runs in Liverpool, celebrates a £1.6million win with her family

## Special care urged for marine sites

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT



A NETWORK of protected areas for seals, dolphins, seabirds and rare corals is being urged by wildlife campaigners as ministers prepare for an important conference on the fate of the North-East Atlantic Ocean.

The World Wide Fund for Nature yesterday called on the Government to back a plan to help to protect marine wildlife, to be discussed at this month's meeting of the Oslo-Paris Commission (OSPAR), a body responsible for regulating the North-East Atlantic maritime environment.

The aim is to give the area, which includes the North Sea and the Western Approaches, the same kind of conservation status enjoyed by the Baltic, the Mediterranean, the Black

Sea and the Arctic Sea under conventions such as the Helsinki, Barcelona and Bucharest.

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions said yesterday that John Prescott, who will represent Britain at the conference, was likely to support the scheme. But wildlife campaigners want ministers from the 16 OSPAR nations to go a step further by backing a scheme to put special conservation measures into place at certain sites.

Scientists and campaigners have drawn up a list of ten key sites, covering areas in the North Sea around Britain, north of Holland and off the west coast of Germany. The

sites are not only important habitats for rare species but serve a vital purpose as mass feeding and breeding grounds for birds and spawning fish.

Sarah Jones of the WWF said yesterday that once the list of marine protected areas had been agreed, specific management plans could be drawn up to restrict shipping, oil and gas activity and fishing. Measures may include only permitting tankers with double hulls on the sites and restricting the kinds of trawlers and nets allowed into the areas.

This would put pressure on authorities such as the International Maritime Organisation and the European Union fisheries ministers to recognise marine protected areas.

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## Scientist's 'torture' over BSE

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A SCIENTIST claimed yesterday to have been subjected to "mental torture" because his outspoken views on the risks posed to public health by "mad cow" disease irked the scientific and Civil Service establishment.

Harsh Narang, a microbiologist who was made redundant from his government-funded job in the Public Health Laboratory Service four years ago after being found guilty of misconduct, told the BSE inquiry that "many lives could have been saved" if his warnings had been heeded.

He accused his superiors of prematurely terminating research that could have established a link between BSE and

a new strain of the human brain disorder. Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, six years earlier than it was.

Dr Narang, 56, said that before BSE he had "worked away happily without political interference. Although my laboratory facilities were primitive, I was very happy. Since BSE appeared I am constantly being mentally tortured. I cannot plan even a day ahead."

He said that he had come across "atypical" cases of CJD for the first time as long ago as 1988 and in the same year had started doing experiments on hamsters and mice. "By 1990 these experiments were well advanced and were giving clear preliminary indications

that they were CJD cases infected with the BSE strain," Dr Narang said. But Dr Nigel Lightfoot, his superior, had closed down the experiment and had the animals destroyed.

"Had these experiments been completed... we would have been in no doubt about the link between BSE and CJD and many lives could have been saved," Dr Narang said.

His claims were rejected in a separate statement submitted to the inquiry by the PHLS board, which said it was "not apparent" that Dr Narang's experiments would have produced evidence of a clear link between BSE and CJD. The PHLS also denied trying to halt Dr Narang's re-



Narang said that lives could have been saved

search, although it said the trial animals had been moved temporarily to a veterinary laboratory while the test facilities at the PHLS were refurbished. The inquiry continues.

## Science gets £1.1bn extra for research

By NICK NUTTALL

BRITISH science and technology was given a boost yesterday as the Government announced extra spending of £1.1 billion on research.

The funds, announced in advance of today's general comprehensive spending review, will be spent over three years and are on top of the £1.34 billion science budget for 1999 until 2002.

The Wellcome Trust is contributing £600 million of the £1.1 billion, with the lion's share earmarked for upgrading laboratories and ageing equipment.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, announced the funding yes-

terday with Gordon Brown. She said that it "reverses the decline under the previous Government and is made possible by a pathbreaking public private partnership with the Wellcome Trust".

John Mufvey of Save British Science, a pressure group of academics, said yesterday that the funds were a good start for returning "world-class support for a world-class science and engineering base". He said the extra money from central Government "more than compensates for the real-terms cuts of the previous two years".

Talent bank, page 9

## Opera singer wins fight over Coca-Cola leg injury

By DALYA ALBERGE

AN OPERA singer yesterday won her legal fight against English National Opera over a leg injury, which she maintained had been caused by the spraying of Coca-Cola on a rehearsal studio floor. Janis Kelly tore a ligament and was in pain for two years after her foot "stuck" to the floor of a studio at the Coliseum in London, when she was practising a dance routine for Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*. She won £11,566 damages in November last year from ENO, which was found by a judge at the Central London County Court to have acted negligently in "Coking" the floor to make it more adhesive

for dancers. ENO took the case to the Court of Appeal yesterday, claiming that it had not used the practice known as "Coking" on that particular studio and that the accident, in September 1995, could have been caused by performing the dance step incorrectly.

Lord Justice Buxton, dismissing the appeal, said that Judge Ryland had found that Miss Kelly was an honest witness and had dismissed the ENO's claims that she was "unreliable and prone to gilding the lily". He said that Miss Kelly had not known about "Coking" until it was explained to her by a stagehand after her accident. Miss Kelly, a mother of

four-year-old triplets who has been a professional singer for 20 years, was backed by the stage union Equity. She had given evidence that her right foot had stuck to the floor because of the "sticky substance" and her knee was twisted when she tried to perform "a very simple pivot". She said after the hearing: "This case has gone on for a very long time and I am glad it's all over now. The accident did not stop me from working but I was in pain for 15 years."

Miss Kelly is now rehearsing for Mozart's *La Finta Semplice*, which will be performed at the Buxton Music Festival.

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# South Africa may have ordered British deaths

## Michael Evans examines revelations about germ warfare programme

M15 and police have reopened files on six people who died in Britain in the 1980s and early 1990s, apparently of strokes or heart attacks, but who may have been murdered as part of a secret germ warfare programme operated by the apartheid regime in South Africa.

The disclosures follow unprecedented co-operation between the South African and British intelligence services. The dead were known to be working in Britain against the apartheid regime, or had knowledge of Pretoria's secret operation in the 1980s to acquire and develop chemical and biological weapons.

The first hint that the deaths — all attributed to natural causes — may have been suspicious came after evidence of assassination plots

emerged from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings in Cape Town last month.

White former senior South African officials and military leaders who participated in the chemical and biological weapons programme, code-named Project Coast, have told of plots to develop poisons to induce heart failure, cancer and sterility in the black population. They have also revealed plans to produce weapons, including screwdrivers tipped with deadly bacteria or chemicals, to kill opponents of apartheid in Europe and America.

One of the deaths being reassessed is that of Peter Martin, who was managing director of Special Training Services, a defunct company

based in London that provided advice on counter-terrorism and supplied bodyguards. According to a former associate, Mr Martin contacted M16 when he was approached by a South African military commander who asked him to arrange training in nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) warfare defence. The associate said that Mr Martin was told to co-operate with the South African and to keep M16 informed.

According to his fiancée at the time, Rosemary Durrant, Mr Martin, a former army intelligence officer, spent the last few months of his life in constant fear. He died of a massive stroke, aged 62, in 1992. A post-mortem examination found nothing suspicious.

Mr Martin's file and that of

about five others were reopened after a senior official from South Africa's revamped National Intelligence Agency contacted M16 and M15 and briefed them about Project Coast's British connections. Apart from the suspicious deaths, a white South African general involved in Project Coast has claimed that Britain's chemical and biological defence establishment at Porton Down, Wiltshire, was "penetrated".

In an interview with the veteran reporter Tom Mangold for a BBC *Panorama* programme, *Plague Wars*, tonight, Lieutenant-General Niels Knobel, former Surgeon-General of the South African Defence Force, says: "Porton Down was a world leader in this area. We got top-secret manuals from Porton Down. They were either stolen or given to us."

The information supplied by the National Intelligence Agency included evidence that Project Coast involved assassinations in Europe, especially in The Netherlands, where there were many anti-apartheid organisations, and possibly in Britain.

At the time of the deaths of the six people now under investigation, there was no evidence of foul play. But every effort is now being made to see whether they could have been murdered. Although the deaths are largely a police matter, M15 and M16 are concerned about the possible proliferation of germ warfare knowledge and technology from South Africa.

The head of Project Coast, Brigadier Wouter Basson, former commander of 7 Medical Battalion Group, ex-special forces and heart specialist to former President Botha, was spotted in Libya, a country known to have a chemical and biological weapon programme.

Brigadier Basson, who is on bail facing ten charges, including conspiracy to murder, had his own British headquarters at a cottage in Berkshire. At one of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings last month, Jan Lourens, a South African scientist and head of a company called Protechnic, said that he had



Wouter Basson, head of Project Coast, which is said to have ordered assassinations

# Mandela adviser's underwear laced with poison

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE chemical and biological warfare programme in South Africa, exposed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, included plans to put cholera into the water supply in Mozambique.

The man who was apparently in charge of the clandestine project was Brigadier Wouter Basson, 47, who has so far refused to give evidence at hearings in Cape Town but has sat, often with a smile on his face, while the revelations have unfolded. He has denied all of the allegations.

Men involved in the programme, called Project Coast, have told how Frank Chikane, a close adviser to Nelson Mandela, survived two attempts on his life in which his underpants were laced with poison that began to seep into the pores of his skin.

There were also plans to give President Mandela doses of thallium, to cause brain damage, while he was a prisoner of the apartheid regime.

According to *Panorama* tonight, another victim may have been Garth Bailey, a South African who had worked in the biological warfare programme but became disillusioned. He died suddenly of a stroke but it is suspected that he was killed with snake poison. His widow, Daphne White, who lives in Maidstone, Kent, said: "He was murdered because he knew too much about what was going on."

Brigadier Basson had apparently been ordered to destroy all the paperwork on Project Coast and to put the research into 12 CD-Roms, to be held in a safe at the headquarters of 7 Medical Battalion Group. When his home was raided by South African police, however, they discovered documents relating to the secret project.

The West feared that the South Africans might pass on their knowledge about biological warfare to maverick regimes such as Libya. Brigadier Basson did visit Libya, but was warned by a Western intelligence agent never to go there again.

### SUSPICIOUS FIANCEE TOOK SAMPLE OF SKIN TISSUE

BEFORE his sudden death in 1992, Peter Martin was convinced he was being followed, according to Rosemary Durrant, his fiancée (Michael Evans writes).

She was so concerned when the counter-terrorism expert died that she arranged for skin tissue to be removed after his post-mortem examination in Oxford. The tissue is now expected to be re-examined in the new investigation.

Mrs Durrant told *The Times* yesterday: "Peter said he had been approached about biological warfare and that he had been to Porton Down to receive special training. He also told me that he had informed the authorities about the South African approach. He was very worried about biological substances getting into the wrong hands."

Mrs Durrant said her former fiancé had led an extraordinary life and had reason to be afraid from a number of different sources, not just from his knowledge of the South African biological warfare programme. Several weeks before he died at his home in Kirlington in Oxfordshire he began to suffer terrible pain. Mrs Durrant said: "There was no explanation. He was physically fit. He



Peter Martin and his fiancée, Rosemary Durrant

went for a brain scan two weeks before he died but nothing was found."

Her concerns are supported by Jim Shortt, a former associate of Mr Martin who worked as a project director at Special Training Services and is now director-general of the International Bodyguards Association. He said that he and Mr Martin had been approached by Brigadier Wouter Basson during an exhibition on military medicine at an hotel in Bloomsbury, Central London.

Mr Shortt said: "He was accompanied by the South African military attaché and I

gave him brochures. His story was that he needed information about defence against biological warfare because South African troops operating in Angola and Mozambique faced possible chemical and germ attacks by Russian and Cuban elements."

He added: "We were very suspicious. It was arranged for Peter and I to have a one day course at Porton Down's Winterbourne Guntery, the nuclear, biological and chemical defence school, near Warminster, so that we could cross check with the experts what Basson had been asking."

contact known only as "Trevor" at the cottage. Protechnic was alleged to be a front company for Project Coast.

Intelligence sources indicated that the cottage in Berkshire was not considered to have been a major headquarters for operations in Britain and Europe. However, it was raided by two detectives from the Special Fraud Office last year as part of an investigation into the laundering of more than £1 million, allegedly connected to Project Coast. Files and papers were found hidden in a cupboard. It is also

known that Brigadier Basson met Mr Martin on two occasions and asked for a training course in NBC defence.

The intelligence sources said the investigation into the small number of deaths had been launched as a cautionary measure to discover if there were any suspicious circumstances and if there was any evidence that the dead had been poisoned. They admitted, however, that some biological agents were extremely difficult to detect.

A spokesman for Porton Down, now run by the Defence Research and Evaluation Agency at Farnborough,

Hampshire, said that they were aware of the allegations that the establishment had been penetrated by South African agents, but that there had been no breach of security, if there was any evidence that secret documents had been handed over, they would like to see it.

There had been no inquiry into the allegations. The spokesman indicated, however, that checks had been made on Brigadier Basson. "We're absolutely sure that Wouter Basson has never been to Porton Down," he said.

Torturer dies, page 12

## Doorstep gasman takes it as read

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

TECHNOLOGY that will allow utility companies to read meters from outside the home was given the go-ahead by the Government yesterday.

The hand-held meter reader uses radio waves to activate and receive a reading from the meter on the street. The system has been approved by the Radiocommunications Agency which will allocate the frequencies needed for the new equipment to work.

Barbara Roche, Minister for Trade and Industry, said: "Waiting for the meter to be read can be the last thing you want to do if you are in a hurry to get out. Allocating part of

## Psychotic killed prayer woman who told him to stop medication

BY STEWART TENDLER AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

A DEAF and mute teenager suffering from psychotic illness battered to death a woman who had taken him into her home and persuaded him to give up his medication in favour of prayer.

Daniel Joseph, 19, was ordered to be detained under the Mental Health Act without limit of time by the Old Bailey yesterday, after admitting the manslaughter of Carla Thompson, 57, on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

Joseph, who is 6ft 7ins tall, battered his victim, tried to set fire to her hair and left her unconscious in front of her flat in Brixton, southeast London. He then turned against her neighbour, Agnes Erume, 57. When police arrived, the two women were lying in the road badly injured with a noose around their necks.

When police tried to arrest Joseph, the contents of three CS sprays failed to subdue him and it took half a dozen officers to overcome him. A charge of attempted murder for the attack on Miss Erume was left on the file.

An inquiry into the case has been set up by South Thames NHS Executive, which will look at the range of mental health services provided in South London. Joseph's mother, Claudette, said that she had become aware that her son was no longer taking his medication, and had warned his doctors that she could foresee "dangerous things". "Nobody took any action. It is their fault," she said.

Police also questioned yesterday why there were no checks on Joseph and whether he was taking his medication. The Old Bailey was told that Mrs Thompson, a former copywriter, had her own psychiatric problems and had suffered a breakdown. She became a devout Christian and her flat became a refuge for people with problems.



Joseph: his mother told doctors of trouble ahead

David Perry, for the prosecution, said: "She believed Mr Joseph's problems could be overcome with faith and prayer. It appears she discouraged him from taking medicine."

Joseph had been treated at St Thomas' Hospital and sent to the Pathfinder National Deaf Service. He went temporarily to a home in Wandsworth, South London, but discharged himself rather than move to another home in Devon. His mother began attempts to have him committed, but he went to Mrs Thompson, a family friend.

Andrew Payne, a Broadmoor psychiatrist, said that Joseph had responded well after being put back on to medication. "I believe his mental illness will continue to improve," he said.

After the case, Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of the mental-health charity SANE, said that the case was "the most shocking incident to date of preventable death" and added: "Daniel Joseph was placed in a hostel in the community but allowed to discharge himself to live with another former psychiatric patient who encouraged him to avoid doctors and medication. All this happened with the knowledge of professionals involved in his care."

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# How to make the Internet mobile in ten minutes...

Being on-line is as important a part of day-to-day communications as having access to a telephone or fax machine. A mobile phone is now accepted as a standard tool for business, anyone who travels without one is seen as being in the Dark Ages. You take one and stay in touch. There is no reason why you should not be similarly enlightened with mobile data. Access to your e-mail, office network and fax wherever you can use your mobile phone.

## What is mobile data?

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## Have you ever wanted to know about your rival's latest product the instant it is announced?

Make sure you are ready to log onto the World Wide Web to pick up the details when your rivals announce their latest products. With mobile

data, you may have found it less straightforward than it should be. You need all the right connectors. To plug a computer into a standard telephone socket means that you need the right lead. Different countries have a bizarre and incompatible range of

## Why is the SH888 the best phone for mobile data?

To transfer data, PCs require a modem. Before the Ericsson SH888, a portable PC modem was contained in a PC card, which slotted inside

data, the drain on the battery is nominal too. And because it supports the IrDA protocol it is compatible with the widest range of PCs, laptops and PDAs (operating Windows CE 2.0). It's even compatible with the Psion 5 and the Palm III.

## So how do I use the SH888 to connect to the Internet?

Connecting to the Internet with the SH888 is extremely simple, but it must be noted that you cannot just buy the hardware, switch it on and expect to browse the web. Firstly you have to subscribe to an Internet service provider, either privately or through your company and then each time follow these simple steps. Activate your PC or PDA's infra-red port, select "Activate IR port" on the SH888's menu. Place the phone next to the computer, ensuring the infra-red ports are facing each other. Then either log into your office network or dial into your Internet service provider. Click onto your Internet icon and enter your desired address. For faster downloading you can opt to turn the images off.

## And how do I use the SH888 for e-mail?

Sending and receiving e-mail is as simple as connecting to the Internet and follows much the same pattern - so again, you must have an e-mail

account with a service provider either privately or through your office. Switch on your PC and phone, line up the infra-red ports and to send or receive e-mail, dial into your office or service provider. Then click on the e-mail or the in-box icons. You need only be on-line to transmit and receive e-mails, so you can read and write them at your leisure without tying up your phone line, keeping your costs down as well as your line free for other business.

## The SH888. The best phone from the best manufacturer.

Introducing the SH888 - Ericsson's most technologically advanced phone. As well as an in-built PC card and infra-red communications port, the SH888 boasts the kind of features that you would expect from the Manufacturer of the Year, as voted by the telecoms trade.

The slim battery gives you up to 120 hours standby and 400 minutes talktime on the GSM 900 network, so you may as well leave your charger at home with the cables. And because the SH888 is one of the first dual band phones available, it is the ideal companion on overseas trips. The ability to use both GSM 900 and 1800 MHz networks gives you the widest possible range of roaming partners, making it easier to get a line in remote or congested areas.

The SH888's already superior sound design supports EFR (Enhanced Full Rate speech coding) providing speech and reception quality you'd expect from a land line phone. Sleek, black and futuristic with a three line display, it looks as good as it sounds. On its own it's impressive. With a computer it's amazing. The Ericsson SH888.



## The new SH888.

your computer. The in-built PC card and infra-red technology in the SH888 has a number of benefits, besides removing the need to carry the extra kit and the fact that it's cheaper to buy the SH888 than a mobile phone with separate cable and card.

Traditionally PC cards rapidly drain a computer's battery, especially PDAs (Personal Digital Assistant) which use normal Alkaline batteries. Because the modem is built into the phone, the power isn't drawn from the PC. As the phone need only be used on infra-red when you transfer

sockets. With the SH888 you don't need to worry about sockets and cables because it has an in-built PC card and communicates with your computer directly by infra-red using the same technology as a TV remote control. For international calls a mobile phone can also be substantially cheaper than paying hotel rates.

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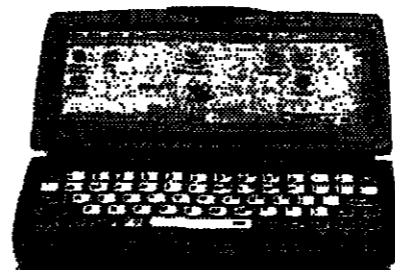
# ...or 10 seconds.



All you need to do to use the SH888 for Mobile Data. Configure your PC or PDA to use its infra-red port.



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# Puttnam to head £200m 'board of British ideas'

THE film-maker and Labour peer Lord Puttnam is to head the new national fund that will spend millions of pounds every year on promoting talented inventors, designers and artists.

**Dalya Alberge on the Government's choice for the job of helping to nurture the nation's creative talent**

Nesta — the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts — was launched yesterday with £200 million pledged from the National Lottery. The aim is that British innovators will no longer have to look abroad to fund and develop their ideas. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, described Nesta as the "national bank for talent".

the trustees will choose to distribute the money have yet to be worked out. But, for example, a gifted musician could be provided with tuition or masterclasses, and an inventor could be helped with prototyping or securing patents. Nesta will seek a share in successful ventures, such as through royalties, using any revenue to bolster its lottery income.

the Second World War originated in Britain. "We have not been good at building on our own creativity," he said. Through Nesta Britain could break down the "artificial barriers" between the arts and sciences and "help to turn skills into careers and ideas into products". He observed that of the ten largest companies in America, six did not exist 20 years ago: "All started in garages of their owners as ideas."

ture spokesman, criticised the Government's decision to appoint "an overtly party political figure". He said that the position was a consolation prize for Lord Puttnam after his failure last week to be appointed vice-chairman of the BBC.

The eight trustees, chosen from 400 applicants, are Carol Vorderman; Dr Christopher Evans, OBE, 40, a biochemist and entrepreneur; Professor Sir Martin Rees, 56, Astronomer Royal and a fellow of King's College, Cambridge; Dame Bridget Ogilvie, 60, director of the Wellcome Trust and a trustee of the Science Museum; David Wardell, 38, head of the national body to support and advise inventors; Francois Matarasso, 39, a director of the Intellectual Property Development Confederation; Clive Gillinson, 52, managing director of the London Symphony Orchestra; and Genista Melntosh, 51, executive director of the Royal National Theatre.



Head start: Lord Puttnam and Chris Smith outside the British Museum yesterday

# Tories alter stance on hereditary peers

By James Landale

WILLIAM HAGUE began yesterday the delicate task of ending his party's support for hereditary peers by announcing a constitutional commission to examine ways of reforming the House of Lords.

But the launch was overshadowed by a leaked party memo which suggested that the commission would not be as independent as first appeared. The memo, by Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, said the commission should be chaired by a senior Tory figure and should avoid tiresome recommendations that the party might find hard to accept. Yesterday Mr Hague insisted: "It will start with not political instructions and no party preconceptions. There will be no nudges or winks as to its findings."

# Labour must join debate on Lords reform

WILLIAM HAGUE'S decision to set up a commission on the future of the House of Lords can be read in several ways: as a shrewd tactical move to outmanoeuvre the Government; as balancing Lord Cranborne, Tory leader in the Lords, and Liam Fox, its new constitutional affairs spokesman; as bridging differing views within the Tory party; and as educating hereditary peers on the probability of their demise. Even though it is not as independent as Mr Hague claimed yesterday, the mere existence of such an inquiry shows that he knows the party has to take a strategic position rather than just seek tactical advantage. The commission will broaden what has so far been an inadequate public debate.

sion will be that no alternative would be better than the current system. The key principles are those concerning the implications for Parliament and the Commons. That link is understood by members of Lord Irvine's committee on Lords reform, but no minister has yet discussed the implications. Any change in the composition of the Lords will inevitably affect the balance between the two chambers. The current ping-pong between the two Houses over student fees in Scottish universities shows the potential extent of the powers of the Lords at present. However, if the Lords is seen, or sees itself as more legitimate, following the removal of hereditary peers, then it will be more likely to use its powers. That instability is the real danger of an interim stage between abolition and long-term reform rather than much exaggerated Tory fears about creating a House full of prime ministerial nominees — which would take a long-time to happen because of the big party imbalance among existing life peers.

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

and that there is a strong case for real reform of Parliament to reinforce democratic accountability and parliamentary scrutiny. That has been obvious to many outsiders for some time, but it would be uncharitable not to welcome even a repented sinner. The inquiry, under Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has been asked to reconcile inherently incompatible criteria. The Hague/Cranborne principles are that any reformed chamber must be better at scrutinising and revising legislation than the present one; a substantial independent element must remain; the Prime Minister's powers of patronage must not be increased; the members must be drawn from all parts of the UK; reform must be considered in the context of its effects on Parliament as a whole; and the supreme authority of the Commons as the focus of democratic accountability must remain intact. Cynics may wonder whether the incapable, conservative, conclu-

The Mackay inquiry will really have to start by looking at the role of the Commons in the light of devolution and the Human Rights Bill — let alone at the possible implications of electoral reform (which the Tories strongly oppose). That leads on to the role of a second chamber, whether it should, for example, have enhanced powers in protecting the constitution? Only then is it sensible to examine composition: whether to have a mixed appointed/elected element, and the basis of election? However desirable an independent/crossbench element is, I believe it will be hard to sustain two classes of member, one with democratic legitimacy and one without. At least the Tories are asking the right questions. The Labour leadership behaves, publicly at least, as if bashing hereditary peers is sufficient justification. It is not. The Government needs to start joining the debate.

PETER RIDDELL

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# Russia turns its back on burial of Romanovs

WITH solemn martial steps, a Russian guard of honour has rehearsed the slow march bearing the nine oak coffins to their final resting place. Workmen have been frantically laying new asphalt, painting the peeling vault and tidying the neglected Peter and Paul Fortress. A priest has been engaged to intone the rites, for the murdered tsar, his family and his servants, 80 years after his death.

But as St Petersburg prepares for an interment steeped in history and emotion, Russia is turning its back on Nicholas II. The solemn ceremony on Friday to honour the bones found in a shallow grave in Siberia has created so many schisms and stirred up political sensitivities to such an extent that most of the leading representatives of Church and State will stay away.

The chairman of the Duma yesterday announced that parliament would decide today

Even the closest relatives of the tsar are staying away, writes

Michael Binyon

not to send an official delegation to St Petersburg, because Nicholas II was not the emperor but a private individual when he was shot. Patriarch Aleksii II will not be officiating, and President Yeltsin, who had originally planned an elaborate ceremony of reconciliation, will also stay away, as will most European royalty. The final blow came last week when the tsar's heirs announced their withdrawal. Grand Duchess Leonida Georgiyevna, grandmother of 16-year-old Prince Georgi, one

of the leading pretenders to the Romanov throne, announced that her family would not be attending because they were unhappy with the arrangements, which they consider too low-key.

The ceremony will nevertheless draw mourners from unlikely quarters. Mikhail Gorbachev, the last head of the Leninist state that ordered the execution of the tsar and his family, will be there, as will Prince Michael of Kent, a Russian-speaking distant relative.

About 70 members of the scattered Romanov family will come from Switzerland, France and other places of exile. The Vatican is sending an archbishop and the most senior Roman Catholic archbishop in Russia, and Muslim and Jewish religious leaders will be present. Boris Nemtsov, the Deputy Prime Minister, will represent the Government, and ambassadors from more than 25 countries, including Britain and America, will also be there.

The bones have been taken from the mortuary in Yekaterinburg where they were sent after exhaustive DNA tests. They have been loaded into crates to be flown to St Petersburg on Thursday and a hearse will take them to the fortress, the traditional burial place of former tsars.

A planned guard of honour lining the streets has been scrapped. A portrait of the tsar was to have been carried in front of the procession, but now the only decorations will be flags of Russia and St Petersburg and black funeral ribbons.

The bones of Nicholas, Empress Alexandra, three of their daughters, the family doctor and three servants will be interred in the St Catherine chapel of the fortress. No traces of the sickly tsarevich or of his sister Anastasia were found in the pit in Yekaterinburg.



Olga Mathew with her children Alex and Francis at their home in Scotland which they borrow from a friend

## Royal housewife to join funeral

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A RUSSIAN princess who has lived quietly in the Scottish Highlands for more than a decade flies out to St Petersburg today for the state funeral of her great uncle, Tsar Nicholas II.

Princess Olga Romanoff, 48 — who modestly describes herself as a housewife — and her son Francis, 19, will join 56 descendants of the Russian dynasty, who have travelled from around the world to attend the event.

It will be the first time that Princess Olga, known simply as Mrs Mathew to her neighbours in Banchory, Aberdeenshire, has ever visited Russia. She was born in London and does not speak the language of her ancestors. Her official Government invitation arrived by post. "It was nothing fancy, just a letter in Russian on plain paper. I had to get it translated," she said.

Although her ancestors ruled a great empire for centuries, Princess Olga, who is separated from her husband



Olga Mathew's father, Prince Andrew, with his father, the Grand Duke Alexander

band Thomas Mathew, does not have a home to call her own. The cottage she and her three children live in belongs to a friend. She claims her family saw nothing of the immense riches supposedly smuggled out of Russia by the

Romanovs. Although her family were "extremely well-off" when she was young, her fortune she does not like to discuss. "We never had any money from the dynasty. That was all myth and rumour. There were so many of us, so many first cousins, I suppose. I have had to borrow money from a friend to attend the funeral. You could say I am poor, but I manage."

For the service, which will also be attended by relatives of the Tsar's murdered servants, she will wear a smart black dress she bought in Aberdeen last year and wore at the memorial service for her cousin, Earl Henry Soudes, in London last February. "It is not a designer dress and it did not cost hundreds of pounds. I bought it in the sales."

President Yeltsin will not be attending the service, which she says is a political decision and "very sad". Princess Olga said: "I want to be there. He was my great uncle and my father often spoke to me about

his life before the revolution. It is part of me. I feel part Russian."

Her father, Prince Andrew, was the Tsar's eldest nephew. When he escaped to England after the revolution he changed his surname to the British spelling Romanoff and was given a grace and favour residence at Frogmore, on the Windsor Estate.

After Friday's service, Princess Olga intends to visit some of her father's childhood haunts. She will go to the Winter Palace, where her father lived with his family. "The corridors stretched to half a mile and if he wanted to play with his cousins he would jump on his bike and cycle there," she said. She hopes to take a trip to Peterhof Palace, the home of her grandmother, which was built for Catherine the Great.

Before marrying Thomas Mathew, who worked in the City, at the age of 25, she was included in a *Harpers & Queen* list of eligible princesses for the then bachelor Prince of Wales.

## Moscow borrows £9bn to rescue economy

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A PACKAGE of new loans to Russia was announced yesterday, amounting to nearly \$15 billion (£9.2 billion), as the international community finally acted to try to save the economy from collapse.

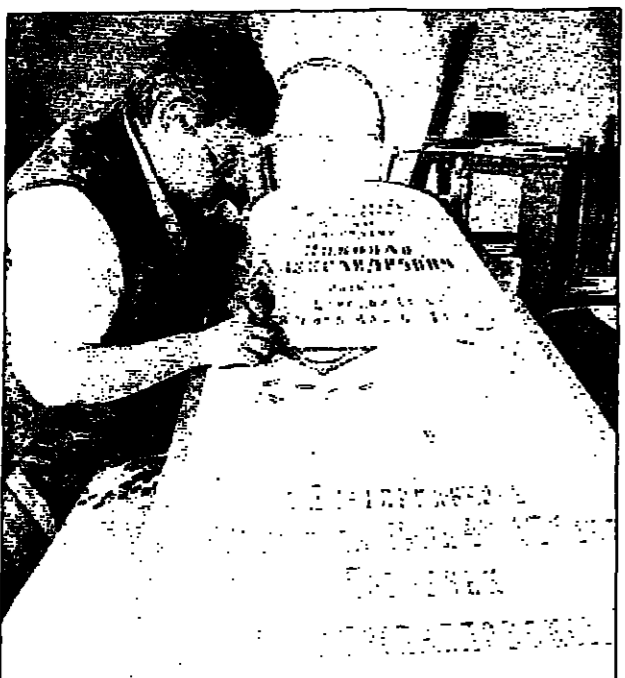
The bulk of the money is being provided by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is putting up \$12.5 billion, under an agreement reached at talks between Anatoli Chubais, the former First Deputy Prime Minister, who is now Russia's chief debt negotiator, and John Odling-Smee, chief of the IMF department for the former Soviet Union. The World Bank will provide a further \$1.7 billion, while Japan has offered \$600 million.

Mr Odling-Smee said that \$5.6 billion of the IMF loan would be released next week, provided the Duma approves the Government's austerity plan and assuming the package is approved by the IMF board when it meets on Monday. The rest of the money would be released in stages over the next six months.

The agreement is expected to relieve much of the pressure on the rouble, which has been vulnerable over the past few weeks amid plummeting oil prices and waning investor confidence. The curbing of the hyper-inflation of the early 1990s is recognised as the Government's greatest economic achievement. Moscow had feared that a run on the rouble could bring a return to those times, when people's life savings vanished overnight.

After the announcement Mr Chubais said: "We are convinced that these resources will allow us to strengthen the anti-crisis measures of the Government significantly and will help stabilise and strengthen the economy."

Markets, page 25



The last gilded letters are applied to the gravestone of fake marble that will mark the Romanov remains

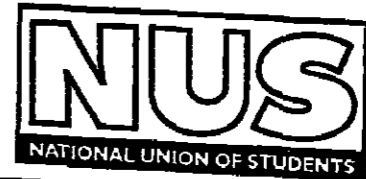
# Why should it cost £1,000 more to go to university in Scotland?

Why are the Government insisting that students from England, Wales and Northern Ireland should pay £1,000 more than students from Scotland, France, Germany, Italy and anywhere else in the Europe Union to study at any one of Scotland's prestigious universities?

We know it doesn't make sense. The House of Lords knows it doesn't make sense. Is it so hard to admit a simple error? To rectify the anomaly will only cost £2 million and surely that is a small price to pay for equality of opportunity for the English, Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish, and for the preservation of the reputation and tradition of the Scottish universities. Why should English, Welsh and Northern Irish students pay more than European or Scottish students to do the same course at the same university?

Please Prime Minister, listen to the pleas of students, lecturers, senior academics and the House of Lords, it's time to stop the destruction of Scottish universities and to stop your legislation as it stands. This Bill has caused confusion and uncertainty for all new students. It's time to think again.

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55 من الأصل

# Celebrations cancelled as Brazil struggles to accept second best



A Brazilian in São Paulo weeps after the defeat

DISILLUSIONED by its defeat by France in the World Cup, Brazil yesterday cancelled a bank holiday that had been announced to welcome the players home. Samba dancer parades and street parties scheduled to take place along Rio de Janeiro's beaches have also been scrapped.

The runners-up can look forward to weeks of inquests and analysis, but no parties, writes Gabriella Gamini in Rio de Janeiro

of being driven through the crowds atop a fire engine on arrival, they will be taken to the Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) offices in a bus. The organisers said that the arrangements were changed because of fears that fans would fail to turn up to receive the players.

watched the game under torrential rain and stood speechless afterwards.

For millions of Brazilians, football has in past decades provided the only source of pride. It has produced heroes, such as Pelé and Garrincha, who defied the laws of gravity with his ball-dribbling skills.

"Losing this time was all the more painful because we showed none of our skills and gave in so easily," said Galvão Bueno, a Globo Television commentator. "France played a courageous, organised game and we ran around the pitch lost and bewildered and seemingly with no spirit to fight on."

media began a hunt for someone to blame. Mario Zagallo, the team coach, stormed out of a press conference swearing at journalists who asked why he let Ronaldo, the star striker, play only an hour after he had been taken to hospital with convulsions and cold sweats.

Brazilian press reports say the team set out for the Stade de France without Ronaldo and it was announced that Edmundo would replace him in the final. A perturbed Brazilian team failed to emerge on the pitch for warm-up exercises and waited for news of Ronaldo's health in the changing rooms.

Senior Zagallo is likely to shoulder the blame for letting an unfit

player on to the pitch. But, according to all Brazilian newspapers, it had been pressure from Ricardo Teixeira, CBF president, that decided that Ronaldo had to play. "There was a meeting between a distressed Zagallo and a heated Teixeira shortly after the list of players was announced, and it is known that the CBF president ordered that Ronaldo had to play," said O Globo newspaper.

"Ronaldo was allowed to play although he was clearly not up to it," said Pelé. "The team collapsed without him and was unable to rise above the crisis." An inquest into what went wrong is likely to be called. The Brazilian press will surely spend the next weeks analysing every detail of the hours before, during and after the match.

GABRIELLA GAMINI / AFP

# French hail win by multiracial team

THE French football team celebrated its stunning World Cup victory yesterday with a jubilant parade down the Champs-Élysées to the deafening roars of an estimated half a million fans.

Moving at a snail's pace through the dense sea of flag-waving supporters on an open-top double-decker bus, the stars of French soccer, clad in identical white shirts depicting the World Cup trophy and beige jeans, basked in the sunshine and the applause of the throng.

Taking it in turns to hold the trophy aloft, the players performed a series of mini-Mexican waves as they passed through the throng, which was held back by an accompanying posse of police.

The most widely heard chant was "Zizou! Zizou!", the nickname of Zinedine Zidane, France's double goal-scorer and the son of an Algerian janitor in whose honour Algerian flags could be seen among the red, white and blue. Fans shouted "Zidane for President".

Several other leading players, such as Lilian Thuram and Marcel Desailly, are blacks of Caribbean descent. The pride in seeing a mixed-race team winning the first World Cup for a France torn by tension over Arab and African immigration was almost as strong as the thrill of victory itself.

"This shows the entire world that a team from all different origins can work together in a strong and coherent unit," enthused a Parisian fan named Thierry. "Maybe this will revitalise the multicultural ideal in France — but unfortunately there are always counter-currents."

Nadia, an Algerian-born Parisian, said: "Zidane is an Arab and he defended the honour of France. This is very good for us immigrants."

The anti-immigrant National Front offered subdued congratulations to the multiracial team. "The National Front is delighted this symbolic victory has brought the French

Soccer triumph has lifted the national mood — and the President's ratings, reports Ben Macintyre in Paris



Aimé Jacquet, second right, the French coach, with players as their parade passes the Arc de Triomphe

people hope and joy, and made it recover its patriotic reflexes; its national anthem and its flag," it said.

"I was here for the liberation and this is the same," said a celebrant named Michel on the Champs-Élysées, referring to the defeat of the Nazi occupation forces in August 1944. "We always had a losers' mentality, but now we have the mentality of winners," another fan said.

Fans scaled lamp-posts and trees to get a better view of Les Bleus and, near the Arc de Triomphe, a giant blue French

football shirt was used to clothe an entire building. In another recognition of the unprecedented success of the French team, it was announced that Aimé Jacquet, the coach, will be awarded the Légion d'honneur today.

Officials said that the honour had been approved before the French win against Brazil. After the parade the French players were due to attend a cabaret show at the Lido. The team has also been invited to President Chirac's Bastille Day garden party at the Elysée Palace, the high point

of the social and political calendar. Tony Blair has written to President Chirac to congratulate him on the host team's performance. "It was a splendid end to a great competition and a fitting tribute to Aimé Jacquet and his team, representing what is best about France. Last night was indeed a true festival of football," the Prime Minister said.

The press acclaimed the national team with a rare unanimity. "It's ours!" declared Le Parisien, while France-Soir acclaimed the "Giants" of French football. The normally restrained left-of-centre Libération bellowed: "La France championne du Monde!"

Today is a national holiday, and after the victory on Sunday night many people stayed away from work yesterday in the tradition of le pont, making a bridge between the weekend and a day off.

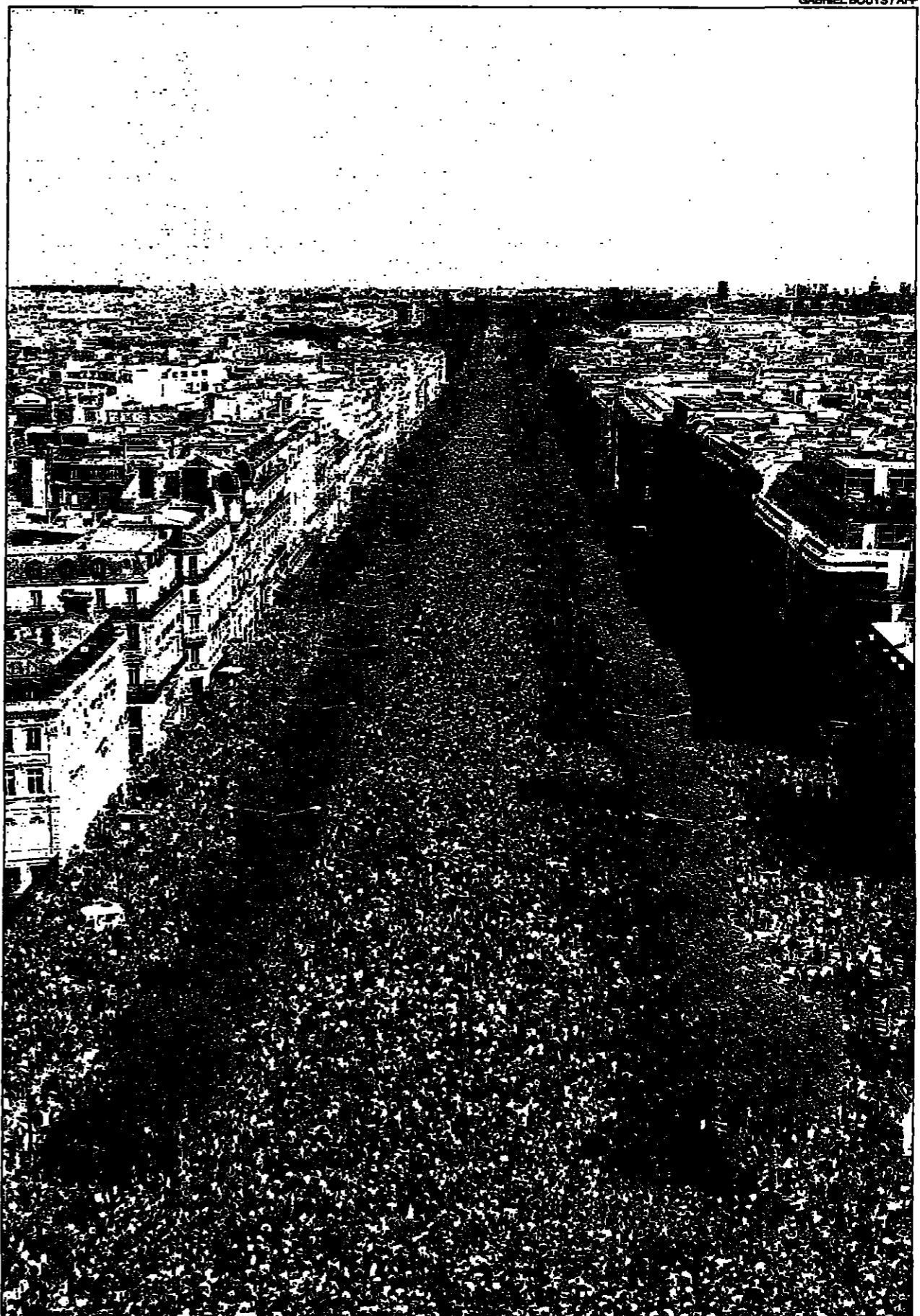
For his traditional Bastille Day televised address, M Chirac has chosen the theme "A winning France", in which he was expected to emphasise again his "happiness and pride" in the French team.

M Chirac has equal reason to be happy at the knock-on effect of France's win on his own popularity, which has hit an all-time high as the tournament reached its climax.

The Interior Ministry released figures last night showing that during the tournament police had made 1,000 arrests and that 74 people had been given prison sentences. Two hundred were arrested in Marseille during the England-Tunisia match and in Lens during the Germany-Yugoslavia and the England-Colombia games.

Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the Interior Minister, described the English hooliganism as "pretty dispersed", whereas German troublemakers had been "much more organised and had acted in a methodical way".

Chirac a winner, page 15  
World Cup, pages 42-43  
Ronaldo mystery, page 48



Crowds estimated at half a million pack the Champs-Élysées to greet the new world champions

# Crash driver who injured 80 revellers was 'psychologically fragile'



Police guard the car after it ploughed into crowds in the Champs-Élysées

A WOMAN who ploughed her car into a crowd of revellers celebrating France's World Cup victory on the Champs-Élysées early yesterday turned herself in to police a few hours later and is expected to undergo psychiatric tests.

The incident, shortly before 3am local time, when the boulevard was jammed with an estimated 1.5 million football fans, injured 80 people, 11 seriously.

The woman, identified as Nelly N., 44, a state teacher at Elancourt just outside Paris, was described by police as a "psychologically fragile" individual who had "panicked" and driven her car into the crowd.

She was taken into custody in the

Yvelines district, west of Paris, and was due to be moved to the police psychiatric clinic in the capital last night, a source close to the inquiry said.

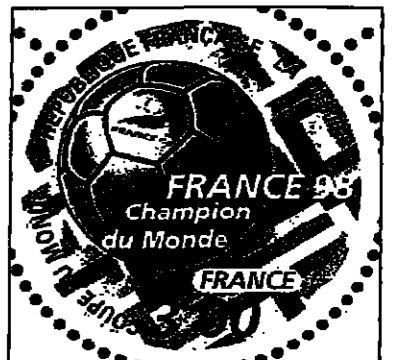
The incident happened near the Arc de Triomphe, but it was not clear how a car had been able to get on to the packed boulevard, which was closed to traffic. "It was incredible," a witness said. "The car was zig-zagging all over the place. There was panic. People didn't know what was happening."

Police said that the woman was distraught at what had happened and realised "the gravity of her action". She reportedly wandered around Paris for several hours after the incident and then telephoned her son, who confirmed to police that she had been undergoing psychiatric treatment for several years. The woman had come to

central Paris to celebrate the 3-0 triumph of the French team with a friend at Fouquet's restaurant on the Champs-Élysées. After dropping off her friend, she apparently returned to the boulevard in her car.

After crashing into the crowd, she was assaulted by at least one spectator before she fled, abandoning her vehicle. The injured, none of whose lives are in danger, were taken to nearby hospitals or treated at the scene by a team of 200 emergency workers deployed under a maximum-alert plan used in terrorist and disaster situations. Another car injured three people, one seriously, outside Fouquet's.

In Grenoble, eastern France, a driver was beaten up after his car crashed into a group of celebrating fans.



A new stamp issued yesterday by the French postal service to commemorate France's World Cup victory over the holders Brazil on Sunday night

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Jordanian queen in landmine crusade

# Japanese look for leader to save economy

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S governing Liberal Democrats yesterday scrambled to choose a successor to Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, who announced he was resigning to take the blame for a stunning setback in the Upper House election.

Jockeying for the leadership began even before Mr Hashimoto said he would quit to take full responsibility for Sunday's electoral debacle, which left the LDP with its smallest number of seats ever in the second chamber.

"Our failure in the election is entirely my fault and responsibility," Mr Hashimoto said after the scale of the LDP's humiliation became clear.

Although the Upper House primarily has a rubber-stamp function, the poll outcome was a devastating blow to the party. But the voters' rejection of Mr Hashimoto's economic policies underscored the difficulty of finding a replacement equipped to cope with the nation's economic woes.

As the four main LDP factions held meetings behind



Obuchi: savours the prospect of top job

closed doors to discuss whom to back for the leadership, the favourites were Keizo Obuchi, 60, the Foreign Minister, and Seiuroku Kajiyama, 72, who has held numerous Cabinet posts, including Trade and Industry.

Analysts believe Mr Obuchi has the edge, as head of the biggest faction, and next in line in the LDP's traditional rotation system. Party insiders describe him as mild, genial and devoid of charisma. The more boisterous Mr Kajiyama, an outspoken critic of Mr Hashimoto's economic performance since quitting the Cabinet last August, belongs to the LDP's conservative old guard. He has gained favour with financial markets by making radical proposals to reform the ailing banking sector, which is weighed down by huge bad loans.

"The LDP's problem is its lack of human resources," said Ryu Otomo, a political commentator, adding that the economic situation is so severe that it cannot be remedied by simply changing the Prime Minister. LDP executives said the selection of a new leader would be speeded up to avoid a political vacuum.

"The last thing we want is to give the impression that Japan is drifting aimlessly with no one at the helm," said one senior LDP official.

The party will call a meeting of its Lower and Upper House members a week today to decide formally on a new president. The LDP's majority in the Lower House means the winner is certain to be voted in as Prime Minister when parliament convenes, probably at the end of the month.

Mr Hashimoto, who took power in January 1996, will remain in office until his successor is installed. He lamented that Japanese diplomacy has been thrown into disarray by his resignation. At a news conference, he said he was cancelling trips to France and the United States.

He had been scheduled to leave for Paris on Sunday and go on to Washington two days later to brief President Clinton on measures he planned to pull Japan's economy out of recession. He was particularly concerned that Tokyo's improving ties with Moscow might suffer.

Mr Hashimoto's legacy is a commitment that Japan will conclude a bilateral peace treaty with Russia by 2000, a pledge which emerged from the warm personal ties developed with President Yeltsin.

"Regardless of my resignation, Russo-Japanese relations must progress," the Prime Minister said. Later he relayed this sentiment to Sergei Kiriyenko, the Russian Prime Minister, who arrived in Tokyo last night to seek further Japanese economic assistance to help to overcome his country's financial turmoil.

□ Kuala Lumpur: Anwar Ibrahim, the Malaysian Finance Minister, admitted that his country will slip into recession this year, confirming the worst fears of financial analysts. (AP)

Although the Upper House primarily has a rubber-stamp function, the poll outcome was a devastating blow to the party. But the voters' rejection of Mr Hashimoto's economic policies underscored the difficulty of finding a replacement equipped to cope with the nation's economic woes.

As the four main LDP factions held meetings behind

## Bureaucrats control purse and policy

By DAVID WAITS

JAPAN has first-class industry and arguably the world's finest bureaucracy — but third-class politicians.

The problem for the world's second most important economic power is that its bureaucracy, which effectively has run the country for 150 years, is discredited and demoralised, and its politicians are far from ready to fill the breach.

The sight of dozens of police investigators more or less ransacking the Ministry of Finance earlier this year was akin to the Serious Fraud Office marching into Buckingham Palace and demanding an accounting of royal expenditure. The ministry has de facto control over all government policy through its purse strings, and its primacy has to Western equivalent.

Since that reversal, the bureaucracy has been effectively paralysed and policy has drifted despite the international clamour for Japan to reflate its economy and save the economies of Asia, along with the rest of the world.

Despite the promises by Ryutaro Hashimoto, the outgoing Prime Minister, of reform, in reality he had no power to change anything unless the Ministry of Finance bureaucrats approved. Any successor will find himself in the same position. The ministry is locked in the economics of 20 years ago — conservative nationalism is the central concern. It is no accident that the model for Japanese politics is German, rather than British or American. The notion that the Government responds to the people is still alien.

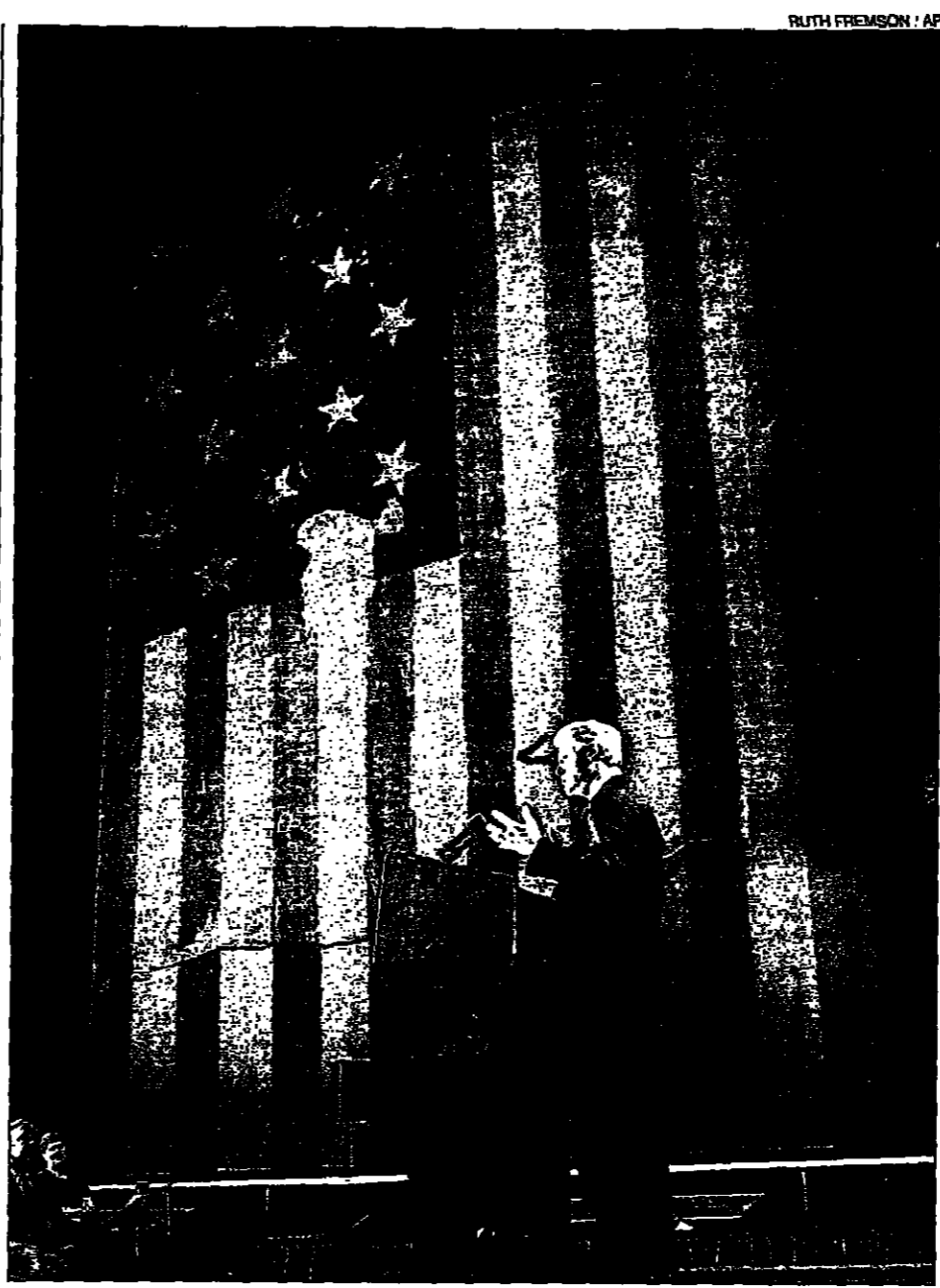
The ministry's credo revolves around protecting the interests of Japan Inc, come what may. And if that involves keeping the yen at a level which undermines the Koreans and the Chinese and has the potential to destabilise the rest of Asia, then Washington may fulminate but Tokyo will procrastinate until it is in its interests to do something.

Japan's dilemma is that it may be years before it has internationally credible politicians. In the meantime, overzealous bureaucrats may run the country into the ground.

Although the Upper House primarily has a rubber-stamp function, the poll outcome was a devastating blow to the party. But the voters' rejection of Mr Hashimoto's economic policies underscored the difficulty of finding a replacement equipped to cope with the nation's economic woes.

As the four main LDP factions held meetings behind

Leading article, page 19



President Clinton speaking in front of the cherished Fort McHenry flag yesterday

## Designer rescues Stars and Stripes

Washington: Ralph Lauren, the fashion designer, yesterday donated \$13 million (£8 million) to restore the decaying remains of the oldest and most cherished of America's icons: the Star Spangled Banner that inspired its national anthem (Tom Rhodes writes).

The vast flag which flew, in

defiance of a British assault, above Fort McHenry in Baltimore on the night of September 13, 1814, and whose broad stripes and bright stars stirred Francis Scott Key to write his famous poem, is gradually fading to fragments and dust.

Flanked by President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, at

the hall of the National Museum of American History — where the flag has hung for nearly 35 years — Mr Lauren announced the biggest corporate donation to the Smithsonian Institution which last year launched an \$18 million appeal to restore the four-storey-high national treasure.

### WORLD IN BRIEF

## Belarus leaders banned from EU

Brussels: The European Union yesterday banned President Lukashenko of Belarus and his entire Government from setting foot in the Union until the former Soviet republic backs down in a feud over ambassadorial residences (Charles Bremner writes).

The EU, the United States and Japan pulled its ambassadors out of Minsk last month after Mr Lukashenko ordered several envoys out of their homes at Drozdy, a woodland compound on the outskirts of Minsk. Mr Lukashenko is believed to want the prime site for members of his entourage. Ambassadorial residences are sacrosanct under the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations.

## Missile deal to go ahead

Nicosia: President Yeltsin of Russia and his Cypriot counterpart, Glafkos Clerides, have confirmed that an advanced Russian-made anti-aircraft missile system will be delivered to Cyprus later this year (Michael Theodorou writes).

As the leaders met in Moscow, it was reported in *Hurriyet*, Turkey's daily newspaper, that Turkish pilots have been trained in Israel to destroy such missiles. Washington and London have urged Mr Clerides to scrap the deal and Turkey last week threatened a tit-for-tat installation of missiles in northern Cyprus.

## Berlusconi sentenced again

Rome: Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Italian Prime Minister, received a prison sentence of two years and four months for illegally financing Bettino Craxi, once socialist Prime Minister (John Phillips writes).

The Milan sentence was the second for the leader of the Forza Italia Party. Last week he was sentenced to two years and nine months for bribing tax inspectors. Lawyers are appealing, and he will not be jailed immediately.

## Greek shipowner shot

Athens: Kostas Agapiotis, 40, a Greek shipowner, was shot and wounded in the port of Piraeus in an apparent case of cutthroat competition in the passenger ship business turning violence (John Carr writes).

Police are questioning Yangelis Ventouris, whose company had collapsed with financial problems and who had been forced to sell off his vessels. Mr Agapiotis had bought one of the vessels at auction.

## Rwanda fans massacred

Kigali: Hutu rebels armed with guns and machetes threw petrol bombs and killed 34 people who were watching the World Cup final on television at a roadside lodge 20 miles north of the Rwandan capital, Kigali. The victims, some shot and others hacked to death, were buried in a mass grave. One, a child, had his throat cut. A barman escaped by hiding in a lavatory when the 40 rebels attacked. (AP)

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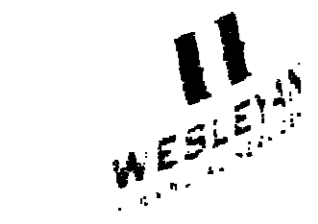
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# Feeling under the weather

Britain's overcast skies have plunged many SAD sufferers into the depths of despair. Anjana Ahuja reports

**B**y rights, this should be a relatively peaceful time for Professor Chris Thompson and his colleagues at the Mood Disorders Clinic at the Royal South Hants Hospital in Southampton. But, thanks to the miserable summer, the telephone has begun ringing again.

The callers are patients who suffer from seasonal affective disorder syndrome, often shortened to SAD, a form of depression usually brought on by the short dark days of winter. The condition, which has been linked to levels of light, normally disappears during long, bright summer days. However, a prolonged recent spell of overcast skies has plunged many SAD sufferers back into the depths of despair.

What sets SAD apart from the more prevalent "winter blues" is that seasonal mood changes are severe and prevent people from leading a normal life. Many symptoms are common to other types of depression: these include lethargy, lack of motivation, disturbed sleep and loss of libido. Other symptoms, such as a craving for stodgy food and hypersomnia (sleeping for excessively long periods), are more unusual and should set alarm bells ringing.

However, the condition is still a nightmare to diagnose. "We normally interview people for an hour and a half in order to assess them," says Nik Martin, a specialist nurse at the clinic. "You have to focus on the seasonal aspect — then you must rule out winter work pressures or anniversaries of bereavements. Perhaps the patient has had a relationship break up in the autumn that has left them depressed."

To eliminate the chances that it is a one-off fit of depression unconnected to the time of year, a person's recent medical history is scrutinised with interest — if, in the past three years, a patient has at least two episodes of winter depression but not more than one case of summer depression, then SAD is a serious candidate. There are no solid statistics on the number of people afflicted by SAD, which was first classified in the Eighties as a bona fide disorder by Dr Norman Rosenthal, an American psychiatrist. A reasonable estimate is that one in ten people is affected, with women making up two thirds of sufferers. Up to a tenth of those are afflicted severely, and some cope by taking extended winter holidays or even emigrating to sunnier climes. For others, life becomes so dreadful that they harbour thoughts of suicide.

Such extreme cases are not unknown — five people have taken their own lives as a consequence of the condition. The SAD Association, which provides information and support for sufferers, claims 2,500 members.

Fortunately, there is a range of medications and therapies available for both mild and serious cases. Anti-depressants such as sertraline, which Professor Thompson helped to develop, and Prozac are recommended — these correct imbalances of serotonin, a brain chemical, implicated in SAD. (Light is thought to alter the way the brain responds to serotonin; this interaction lies at the root of the condition.) The drugs, which belong to a class known as SSRIs (selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors) have the added advantage of being appetite suppressants and non-sedating.

The other major treatment, often used in combination with drugs, is light therapy, which uses intense white light as a substitute for sunlight. It involves sitting two feet away from a "light box" for at least two hours each day; the effects are noticeable after about four days. Many sufferers use these therapies only during the winter, which explains why many of them have been ringing Professor Thompson's clinic in frustration.

"It takes three or four days for people to respond to light, and given the gloomy weather recently, I am not surprised that people are beginning to suffer again," Mr Martin says.

However, when used regularly, light boxes can transform people's lives. Eileen Fletcher, a writer in Berkshire who runs a health information organisation called Food for Thought, suffered for five years before buying one. Now she uses it every day between September and March.

"About 15 years ago, I began to notice that a job, which would take me five minutes to do in the summer, would be impossible during the winter," says Mrs Fletcher, 52, a mother of two grown-up sons. "I couldn't motivate myself and couldn't get moving. Work built up and housework built up. I assumed it was normal, that everyone felt that way. I discovered that a daily walk would make me feel much better. I also started gardening more in the winter because I felt I needed to be outdoors more, and I would be able to do the housework when I came back in. I think my husband and children noticed that I would get grumpier at certain times, although they didn't connect it to the weather." During the course of her work she



Not even a brisk walk along the beach will make up for the lack of sunshine for most people this summer

came across articles on SAD, which suggested that daylight could affect mood and, possibly, the immune system. After lengthy inquiries, she found a company that was about to begin importing light boxes into the country and, soon afterwards, became the proud owner of a large model costing £400. "It has really revolutionised my life. Now, in the winter months, I have the lamp on by my computer between 6am and 8am, while I am

working. I also put it on between 4pm and 6pm in the evening. It makes my day seem longer and makes me feel alert and effective. My winters would be absolutely awful without that box." She has even bought two boxes for her sons, which they used during exam revision and now employ when they need an occasional energy boost. "There isn't anyone who would not feel the benefit," Mrs Fletcher says. The boxes are now widespread and

cost nearer £100, but they are not available on the NHS. There are some remedies drawn from the world of complementary medicine. However, the only one of any note appears to be St John's wort, a plant that is being touted as a treatment for depression and is prescribed widely throughout Germany and America. Extracts can be obtained here from health shops. The SAD Association, PO Box 999, Steyning BN14 3HG (01903 619442)

# What makes a pet turn killer?

A new baby can arouse dangerous canine jealousies. Bill Frost reports

**D**ana, a normally placid family pet, was destroyed yesterday after fatally savaging 12-week-old Carly Jones as she slept in her cot. Animal behaviourists say that the alsatian's attack was a direct result of jealousy at the attention lavished on the baby by her parents, Marshall and Ann from Caerphilly in South Wales.

There is a depressing familiarity to the story — only last week an inquest in Stoke-on-Trent heard how a "traumatised" Jack Russell bitch smothered a five-month-old baby while pining for her stillborn puppy. Clearly, dogs have a complex range of emotions in which violent jealousy can surface as the most lethal ingredient.

Rusty, a red setter, once lively and lovable, began to brood ominously with the arrival of his owners' baby. Fortunately, they sensed that their pet resented the new arrival. The bitch's jealousy was palpable: lacking the attention she was used to, she became morose and ill-tempered. Before envy could boil over into savagery, her owners found Rusty a new home.

Dr Roger Mugford, a leading animal psychologist, says we ignore canine emotions at our peril. "I don't think babies should be left with them," he says. "Dogs' emotions can be very powerful and can make them do things that are hazardous to a little child.

"As pets, they are nearly always very attached to their owner. Should that link be threatened, the interloper — particularly a small child or baby — might well be at risk."

Michael and Sandra Kilroy, from Torbay in Devon, have good reason to heed those words. Their border collie bitch, Charlie, began "acting oddly" soon after the arrival of the couple's son, Ben. "We used to take her out for long walks and let her sleep on our bed," recalls Michael. "Then Ben came along and we didn't have as much time for Charlie."

Mrs Kilroy remembers that their pet's nature changed dramatically with the arrival of the baby. "She began snarling when Ben got attention, then one morning she nipped my legs as I put him in the pram. She was no longer the dog we knew. She just moped about

the house and refused food, so we took her to the vet. "At first he thought she was in pain, she looked so depressed and listless. Then I told him about the snarling when Ben was there. He understood immediately and said that we had no choice — Charlie had to go. The alternative was our pet biding her time until she could attack the 'puppy' who had stolen her owners' time and affections."

There are other means of controlling canine behavioural disorders. For example, some owners are turning to controversial collars which send out electric shocks when the animal misbehaves.

Keith Bing, a dog trainer, says the collars — operated by a hand-held remote control



Alsations can be jealous

are safe and very useful. But shock treatment should be used only when the animal's behaviour is life-threatening, he adds.

Meanwhile, in the United States, dogs suffering from such disorders are being given psychotropic drugs in an attempt to curb violent behaviour and depression. Dr Nicholas Dodman, a veterinary school professor, prescribes Prozac to combat "almost every" canine behavioural problem.

"Dogs' brains are structurally and functionally similar to our own, and the neurotransmitters — which control moods and social and sexual behaviour — are identical in the two species," he says.

"Drugs such as Prozac, which increases serotonin levels, can be extremely effective in curtailing dominance-related aggression and jealousy, enabling owners quickly to gain the upper hand."

**'Winters would be awful without my light box'**

# The story behind Abiola's heart

THE international team of pathologists who undertook the post-mortem examination of Chief Moshood Abiola, the Nigerian opposition leader, must have been disappointed not to find an obvious thrombus blocking one of the coronary arteries. In all the best films, the pathologist, standing by a very sanitised body in a very sanitised post-mortem room, always turns to the detective and gives an immediate opinion: coronary thrombosis — and a massive one.

In real life the scenario is rather different when the pathologist opens up the coronary arteries and searches for the errant thrombus. If he strikes lucky, it is most likely to be found in the first few centimetres of the large anterior descending branch of the coronary artery or, possibly, in the right coronary artery. If so, it is likely to be a sizeable clot which the pathologist will extract with his dissecting forceps.

All too often, the pathologist finds that the arteries of the heart are constricted so that the lumen, the channel through the artery, is narrowed in several places by deposits of fatty plaques which are laid down inside the arteries of people with degenerative arterial disease. More

than a third of patients who die of a coronary thrombosis have had previous silent, or near silent, attacks and the heart muscle will have been damaged already and with it the post-mortem appearance. It is therefore hard to isolate the actual cause of death, for often, only one of the smaller diseased arteries is finally blocked by a thrombus.

The state of the other arteries in the heart is also impor-

## MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

tant. If the heart is prone to develop arrhythmias, as is the case in heavy smokers or drinkers, the patient is more likely to die from the heart attack even if it is a small one. It is known that Abiola was fun-loving and it is possible that the good life had undermined his cardiac reserves. If, as is supposed, Abiola's coronary arteries had been gradually closing over the years, the heart muscle which had been serviced with a slowly diminishing blood supply would have become increasingly fibrosed.

After sudden closure of an artery, the first change in the remaining muscle is that it becomes swollen, softened and darker, with the maximum colour farthest from the clot. The area totally deprived of oxygen, the infarct, is yellow with a surrounding red area.

The most likely explanation is that Abiola had a diseased heart and suffered a thrombosis. However, as a Nigerian he could also have had endomyocardial fibrosis. Africans, particularly people in Central Africa, but including those in Nigeria, may suffer, for unknown reasons, from enlarged fibrotic hearts which cause progressive chest pain, tiredness, breathlessness and cough. Other myopathies may be related to diet or former infections.

If there was any question that the chief had had a coronary thrombosis, the American diplomats should have immediately given him one whole aspirin tablet. This is a most important first-aid treatment for anyone who could have had a coronary. The chief should then have been removed as soon as possible to hospital where, provided he hadn't within the past 12 months had thrombolytic treatment to dissolve the clot, he should have been treated with streptokinase.

If the chief or his warders

had known that he had heart disease, he should have been taking aspirin every day. This is recommended for people with known heart disease or who have other vascular disease.

Finally, if Abiola had been in Britain, and the St John

Ambulance Brigade, police or firemen had an appropriate advisory external defibrillator, the American diplomat, or an appropriate official, could have wielded the defibrillator and restored the chief's cardiac rhythm to one which was compatible with life.

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### The story behind Abiola's heart

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TUESDAY JULY 14 1998  
Moscow borrows £9bn to rescue economy

# Blonde, blue-eyed and ruthless: Labour's new ice maiden

### Kirsty Milne charts the rise of Labour's first female General Secretary

**B**londe hair, blue eyes: Tony Blair thinks you're wonderful. Plenty to shout about, surely? Yet Margaret McDonagh, chosen last week as Labour's first woman General Secretary, is the quintessential apparition-in-the-shadows. Photographs are hard to come by: she gives no interviews and rarely speaks in public. Until this week, few outside the party machine had heard of her.

But in Labour's inner circle, McDonagh, 37, is a controversial figure. There are no agnostics: people are either devotedly loyal or messianically hostile. Her appointment will have infuriated several members of the Cabinet, a brace of junior ministers and top trade union leaders—all of whom now have to work with her.

In a world where gossip and plotting are prevalent, McDonagh is a doer. Even her enemies agree that "Margaret delivers". As general election coordinator, she "delivered" last year's spectacular election win, working 14-hour days with nun-like dedication. The now-celebrated "key seats strategy"—which focused funds, effort and volunteers on marginal constituencies—was her

There are no agnostics: people are either loyal to her or hostile

baby. The £49,000-a-year top job at Labour's Millbank Tower HQ is her reward. A cradle Catholic, McDonagh puts a high value on loyalty and self-discipline. You would never catch her boasting about her contacts, like the Labour staffers-turned-lobbyists who got themselves into hot water last week. For her, the party is like an extended family. Family business should not be discussed with outsiders.

It is not a far-fetched comparison. McDonagh's elder sister Siobhain is a Labour MP, elected last May under Margaret's stewardship. The pair share a house in Mitcham and Morden, Siobhain's southwest London constituency. It was where they grew up, and where their Irish-born parents, a building worker and a nurse, still live. Margaret still goes canvassing at weekends. She has an instinctive feel for what the punters want and what Labour should offer, says Fraser Kemp, a former party official and now a Labour MP.

McDonagh learnt the ropes in London, as part of a young team struggling to sort out the chaos that was Labour in the capital. It was 1987, and the future over "loony left" councils



Margaret McDonagh — her biggest problem may be her fierce loyalty to Blair

was raging. Some of the qualities that McDonagh brings to Labour's top job — dislike of the Left, intolerance of dissent, a horror of amateurish anarchy — can be traced back to her experience then.

But McDonagh's career was languishing until 1994, when John Smith died and Blair asked her to work on his leadership campaign. She helped to arrange the crucial meetings at which the new leader sold his watered-down version of the old Clause Four to party members. McDonagh specialised in planting sympathetic speakers, a "fixing" technique she picked up while working for the electricians' union, one of her first jobs after leaving Brunel University.

A grateful Blair specially requested that she should join his general election team. McDonagh had to mediate between the egos of Gordon Brown, John Prescott and Peter Mandelson — "a horrible job", says a former colleague with feeling. She deftly avoided being identified with any of the hostile camps that cluster around Labour's big barons. Her hotline to Blair, which could have been jeopardised by his move to Downing Street, has stayed open since the election. McDonagh's secret weapon is her friendship with Anji Hunter, the PM's personal political secretary. The two women form a powerful axis which others thwart at their peril.

The striking thing about McDonagh is that people are afraid of her. It's not just that she terrifies her staff ("She's a tartar," concedes an admirer). It's not just that she is a young and capable woman in a mainly male environment. She is, as Blair testified last week, "a formidable operator", and that emails knowing who your enemies are. There are some quite senior figures in Labour circles who will say — in private only — that McDonagh can be ruthless and unforgiving.

Jack McConnell, who worked with her as Labour's General Secretary in Scotland, thinks that since the election McDonagh has made a conscious effort to soften her style. She now listens more before

decisions are made." McDonagh will have a lower profile than previous general secretaries, which will suit her aversion to publicity. Blair wants to appoint a new party chairman — an idea borrowed from the Tories — giving McDonagh more of a chief executive's role. The dream choice for chairman is Mo Mowlam, with whom McDonagh gets on well, but Northern Ireland takes priority. One possibility is the up-and-coming Health Minister Alan Milburn. Despite her proximity to power, McDonagh remains refreshingly unpretentious. She makes a point of insisting that she reads only tabloid newspapers. Her regular contacts with new Labour's glitterati are more likely to involve demanding a donation than knocking back champagne.

Money — or the lack of it — will loom large in her new job. McDonagh has pledged to clear the party's £4.5 million deficit, the result of a big election overspend. This may prove to be her Achilles' heel, especially given the events of recent days.

In January, Labour lobbyists were invited to a meeting at Millbank where McDonagh asked them to help to find sponsorship for party events. She seemed unaware of how contentious some types of sponsorship could be. One lobbyist emerged "utterly shocked by her naivety".

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# The President, over la lune

### Chirac is also a winner, says Jason Cowley

**T**he evening began in typical French style with an elaborately expensive fashion show, but ended more unconventionally with the President wrapping himself in a replica football shirt: the elite of French society may have been slow to respond to World Cup fervour but how they finally enjoyed themselves at the biggest party of them all on Sunday night.

A delighted Jacques Chirac was in the thick of it: wearing a Tricolour football scarf, kissing every player as they climbed the podium to collect their medals and waving his blue shirt in the air like an exultant schoolboy. It was great to watch. Perhaps only a sense of presidential decorum prevented M. Chirac from actually putting on the shirt, as President Nelson Mandela bravely wore a Springbok shirt, the old despised symbol of Afrikaner supremacy, after the self-styled rainbow nation won the rugby World Cup in 1995. M. Chirac did, in any event, begin singing Queen's *We Are the Champions*, a global anthem of victory, until, one feels, he remembered how unfashionable English is in the country of the Académie française and longstanding suspicion of les Anglo-Saxons.

Still, it is hard to remember, at least in the West, such an exhibition of unadulterated joy from a head of state — and in a country where football has never been as popular as it is in, say, Italy, Spain or indeed Britain, and where among the grande bourgeoisie it is seen as vulgar, a grubby proletarian game.

There is a deep cynicism about most politicians; experience has shown that they will do everything — anything — to bask in the reflected glory of someone else's sporting achievement, as if that achievement were also a national achievement, even if it amounts to little more than a swimmer winning a gold medal at an Olympic Games.

But sport is an important barometer of a nation's mood. When Margaret Thatcher was guest of honour at a Scottish Cup Final in the 1980s, she was reportedly shocked to see fans of Glasgow Celtic waving Irish republican tricolours, and to hear them boo the national anthem. Here was a manifestation of the detachment that many Scots felt from the British union, and a portent of the Tory electoral disasters to follow north of the border.

Harold Wilson understood how nationalism spirals as tightly as DNA around sport. He was marvellously adept at aligning the Labour Party with the fortunes of Sir Alf Ramsey's World Cup-winning team, and often blamed his narrow defeat in the 1970 general election on England's unexpected defeat by Germany in the quarter-finals of the Mexico World Cup.

More recently, Tony Blair has worked diligently, some might say shamelessly, to exploit the renewed popularity of football: exchanging headers with Kevin Keegan; posing for photographs with Alex Ferguson of Manchester United like a groupie outside a stage door; and inviting journalists into Downing Street to hear his views on England's defeat against Argentina. David Beckham's dismissal and Michael Owen's goal. He does all this without ever quite convincing us that he is a true fan, that his antics are anything more than another outing for Phoney Tony, the master of spin.

That, I think, was why the French were so pleased by their President's unaffected delight. Few doubted that, for all his patrician hauteur, he was a fan. Mme Chirac — absent from the Stade de France on Sunday but thought to have watched the game at the couple's home in the Corrèze — famously said that not even a fly could move at home when her husband was watching a match.

How this quirky hobby has repaid the President. In France there is much talk of the "football effect": of how the popularity of M. Chirac, at an historic low before the tournament, has grown exponentially with every French victory on the pitch.

In a country where Jean-Marie Le Pen's populist far Right gained more than 15 per cent of the vote, the diverse racial mix of the team is even, optimistically, being claimed as a metaphor for the emerging ethnic harmony of the modern French nation. Of those who played on Sunday, Thuram is from the Caribbean, Desailly, Vieira and Karembeu were born in



Chirac shows his delight — and scarf — as France win

present or former French colonies, two-goal Zidane has Algerian parents, Djorkaerff and Boghossian are ethnic Armenians. Guivarc'h is a Breton and Lizarazu is Basque.

M. Chirac's spontaneous delight was exactly what these players — clambering on to the table in front of the assembled dignitaries so that the crowd could see captain Didier Deschamps lift the trophy — would have wanted. Before the game, Deschamps complained of the lack of joy that had greeted earlier French victories, of how there were "too many ties" in the stadium, a barb against the ranks of anonymous businessmen enjoying corporate hospitality.

The response in France to M. Chirac's night of fun has been good. As an *énarque* — a graduate of the elite École nationale d'administration — he has cultivated a certain studied cosmopolitan élan. But he is not above moments of charming improvisation. During the last presidential election campaign, for instance, while on walkabout in a village, he delighted onlookers by pulling up a stall and milking a cow — a reminder, he said, of the summers he had spent as a boy among the farmers of the Corrèze. It was this Chirac, the instinctive populist, rather than the aloof Gaullist, whom we saw last night.

Well done France; well done M. Chirac.

**ARTS**  
**Masterpiece rediscovered:**  
Richard Cork on Epstein's epic sculpture, Jacob and the Angel  
pages 16-17

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She will find it hard to bring Blair bad news or criticism

Paradoxically, McDonagh's biggest problem may be her fierce loyalty to Blair. She will find it hard to bring him bad news or constructive criticism. Yet the row over single-parent benefits shows how vital it is that the leader knows what his party can and cannot stomach. There is plenty to worry about. The Left shows signs of reviving. In Scotland, the party is in turmoil over the centralised way in which candidates are being chosen. A spate of recent reports suggests Labour is losing members. Will new Labour's ice maiden have the guts to tell Blair where he's going wrong? The author is assistant editor at the New Statesman

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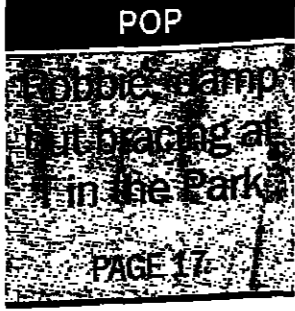
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# THE TIMES ARTS

MUSIC  
A night at the Almeida's Chinese opera  
PAGE 17



## A freak show refugee finds a fitting home

**VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on the journey of Epstein's *Jacob and the Angel* from the tasteless to the Tate**

This summer Sir Jacob Epstein's monumental *Jacob and the Angel* is prominently positioned in a new display at the Tate's Duveen Sculpture Galleries. For many years after he completed it in 1941, though, this grand alabaster carving was exhibited in the most humiliating location imaginable. Installed in the basement "anatomical department" of Louis Tussaud's Blackpool showroom, where two other Epsteins were already on show, *Jacob and the Angel* was treated as a titillating amusement. Outside the garishly decorated seatfront premises, a recorded barker summoned passers-by to gawp at "the strangest thing you have ever seen". Inside, the carvings were surrounded by shrunken human heads and the embalmed body of Siamese twins.

No wonder Epstein's mood darkened. While Nazi troops overran so much of Europe, including his ancestral homeland of Poland, he worked on his autobiography. Towards the end he disclosed just how apocalyptic his expectations had now become. "I imagine a waste world," he wrote. "Angels from the air have bombed the humans out of existence and perished themselves, so that no human thing is left alive." In the face of this

**“The ridicule heaped on his sculpture mortified Epstein”**

terrifying vision, his readiness to undertake a colossal alabaster carving was tantamount to an act of resistance. In one respect, the choice of subject reflects his appalled response to the struggle in Europe. The story in Genesis of Jacob's nocturnal encounter with a mysterious man who wrestled with him "until the breaking of the day", had a ready-made pertinence during this protracted conflict. But the emotional charge of the carving itself proves that Epstein had other, more personal motives for choosing the subject. It is surely significant that he shared his first name with the biblical Jacob. The wrestling enacted in the sculpture

paralleled his own attempt to tackle the oversized slabs of stone he favoured. For a whole year his sustained and concentrated expenditure of energy on this carving was as formidable, in its way, as Jacob's valiant attempt to fight his anonymous foe. When the angel's wings are viewed from behind, their insistent flatness retains a suggestion of the unhewn block. So Jacob could be seen as an embodiment of the sculptor himself, striving to impose his will on the material rearing like a cliff in front of him.

The Old Testament story relates, however, that Jacob failed to vanquish his opponent. Having suffered a dislocated thigh, he was reduced to holding on to his adversary's body and refusing to let go. When Jacques Lipchitz modelled a sculpture of the same subject nearly ten years earlier, he interpreted the struggle as a sign "that God wants us to fight with him". But Epstein's imagination was kindled by the sensuality inherent in their combat. A pair of vigorous pencil studies for his carving show Jacob and his winged opponent standing with arms outstretched in an impassioned dance, and then falling to the ground like lovers locked in a carnal embrace. They recall the homoerotic illustrations Epstein had made for Walt Whitman's *Calamus* at the beginning of the century, in particular a pen and wash drawing inspired by the poem *We Two Boys Together Clinging*.

Epstein chose to dramatise the latter phase of the conflict, when dawn approaches and Jacob is forced to succumb to the stranger's power. But his spirit does not appear cowed by defeat. Jacob's limp figure submits to the angel's grip with an acceptance of inevitability. His head drops back, in a movement reminiscent of the figure in an earlier carving, *Woman Possessed*. For he does seem to gain unexpected fulfilment from his intimacy with an antagonist whose power is far from destructive. Assent can even be detected in Jacob's slack limbs. Like Epstein himself, who realised how much a sculptor could gain from allowing the nature of his material to play a decisive role in the carving's development, he finally became enriched by his stubborn refusal to let the angel go. His opponent blessed him and, after vanishing at daybreak, left Jacob with immeasurably enhanced strength. Perhaps Epstein saw a parallel, here, with the sculptor's capacity to benefit from the closest possible engagement with, and acknowledgement of, the profound stimulus to be discovered in the stone. Throughout his career Epstein had attempted to arrive



Epstein's *Jacob and the Angel* (1940-41): vying for attention with the embalmed body of Siamese twins no longer

### AROUND THE GALLERIES

AN EARNEST little group of painters bands together to explore the implications which imaging technology has for their artistic medium. Photography may have heralded the death of a certain kind of painting, they argue, but digital art, in creating a tension with photography, opens up the potential for painting to redefine itself. Gwen Hardie plays the flatness of a picture surface against illusionistic depth in wonderful dreamy canvases which remind one of opening one's eyes under water in a swimming bath. Mark Wright explores shifting scale, focus and depth of field in large canvases of microscopic molecules randomly set adrift. Edward Cheff uses a photocopier to effect mysterious transformations of drawings while Adam Lowe photographs his paintings and reworks them to set up the tension between an original and what it becomes. *Jason & Rhodes, 4 New Burlington Place, London W1 (0171-434 1768) until Aug 14*

FROM 1980 to 1993, when she turned 40, the French artist Sophie Calle celebrated her birthday with a dinner party. The number of friends invited matched her age each year, with one additional stranger brought along as a symbol of the unknown future. Calle, a victim of obsessive insecurity, would display their gifts like weird memento mori in a glass cabinet for the rest of the year, before storing them away. This show now puts these testimonies of affection on display in a series of glass cabinets. The eclectic clutter ranges from the banal to the bizarre, from the useful to the perplexing. Together they raise questions about how identity may be constructed from secret rituals, how objects accrue meanings for our personal lives. *Tate Gallery, London (0171-887 8000) until Aug 16*

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### BUILDING A LIBRARY: SAINT-SAENS

A consumer's guide to the best available recordings on compact disc, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

**SAINT-SAENS' THE CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS**  
It is both a skilful, witty and highly original piece of music and a piece of abstract theatre, but we tend to take *The Carnival of the Animals* for granted. The performers have to be storytellers, recreating the excitement of our first visit to the circus or the zoo. EMI sports several different performances, that led by the pianists Michel Beroff and Jean-Philippe Collard thrillingly sweeping back the curtain, as does Michel Plasson with the Toulouse Capitole Orchestra. But Saint-Saens really intended *Carnival* for a chamber ensemble, and there are several in the catalogue, notably by the London Sinfonietta on Decca and the Nash Ensemble on Virgin. Both are characterised by refined playing, without forcing the humour. Chandos offers us 1 Music de Montreal with David Owen Norris and Gregory Shaverdian with narration (in French) and without. The famous Ogden Nash verses are not currently available, but Telarc offers us the Atlanta Symphony under Yoel Levi with new verses in Nash's vein by Bruce Adolphie - spoken by Itzhak Perlman - or with new introductions by Peter Schickele. Two other important chamber versions are by an ensemble led by Philippe Entremont

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Mr John Pendower, former Dean of the Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School... Sir Colin Berry, Society of Apothecaries of London...

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jules Mazarin, cardinal and statesman, Pescara, Italy, 1602; Sir Robert Strange, engraver, Kirkwall, 1721; John Gibson Lockhart, biographer of Sir Walter Scott...

DEATHS: Richard Bentley, scholar and controversialist, Cambridge, 1742; Mme de Staël, writer, Paris, 1817; Alfred Krupp, industrialist, Essen, Germany, 1897...

The Bastille, Paris, was stormed and destroyed by the citizens, 1789. Alfred Nobel demonstrated dynamite for the first time at a quarry in Redhill, Surrey, 1867.

Mr M.L. Dorber and Miss S.M. Mellor... The engagement is announced between Mark Lindsay, younger son of Mr J.H. Dorber...

Mr P.N. Howe and Miss E.A. Browne... The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr J.H. Howe...

Dr A.R. Nesbit and Dr K.L. Mill... The engagement is announced between Andrew Robert, second son of Mr and Mrs Derek P. Nesbit...

William Graham Lamb, retired accountant of Harefield, Middlesex, left estate valued at £5,546,357 net.

Barbara Joyce Leeming of Holford, Norfolk, left estate valued at £399,199 net.

Oliver Sibley May, of London SW3, left estate valued at £264,913 net.

Elizabeth Brooks Partridge, of London W6, left estate valued at £736,875 net.

Elizabeth Brooks Partridge, of London W6, left estate valued at £736,875 net.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE... Special Administrative Region, and Japan. The following were present and took leave of Their Royal Highnesses...

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE... July 13: Princess Alexandra, President of the Children's Country Holidays Fund...

Dinners... Institute of Management Services. The Mayor of Cambridge and Mrs Parry attended a dinner held last night at Christ's College, Cambridge...

Luncheon... Rotary Club of London. The Austrian Ambassador was the speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Portman Hotel...

Reception... Lord Astor of Hever. President of the Motorsport Industry Association, was the host at a reception held last night at the House of Lords...

University news... Selwyn College. Dr Andreas Bieler and Dr Andrew Peter Middleberg have been elected into Fellowships from October 1.

Meeting... Royal Over-Seas League. Mr Peter Facey was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Group of the Royal Over-Seas League last night at Over-Seas House, St James's...

Birthdays today... The Earl of Arran, 60; Mr Ingmar Bergman, film producer, 80; Mr Martin Buse, advertising executive, 66...



Osasa Laoham-Eke, from St Paul's Primary School, Walworth, South London, rehearsing for the part of Shylock. He was among 500 children from Southwark schools who took part yesterday in a performance of The Merchant of Venice at the Globe theatre.

Archaeology Digging in for the holidays

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT... REAL and simulated excavations, flint-knapping and metal-smelting, ancient snails and treasure trails will all be on offer at the National Archaeology Days this month...

New ambassador appointed

Mr William Ehrman has been appointed Ambassador to Luxembourg from September in succession to Mr Nicholas Elam who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Church news

Archdeacon of East Riding Canon Peter Harrison, Team Rector, Drypool, and Area Dean of East Hill (York) to be Archdeacon of East Riding in succession to the late Hugh Buckingham who retired on June 30.

Mercers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Mercers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Richard Kelo Westmacott; Upper Warden, Mr Philip Richard Withers Green; House Warden, Mr Richard Cavton Cusins; Renter Warden, Mr Anthony Edward Hodson.

Brewers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Brewers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr C.J.R. Pope; Upper Warden, Mr R.H.B. Neame; Middle Warden, Mr R.R.G. North; Renter Warden, Mr J.H. Wells.

Elections

Insurance Institute of London Mr Deiter Loe has been elected President of the Insurance Institute of London from October 12. Mr Peter Ward has been elected Deputy President.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page: 'بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ' (In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful).





# Soldiering on with a mission to explain the Roman Conquest

### Christian Dymond meets a man with an idea 2,000 years in the making

These days Roman soldiers are not quite so much in evidence on Hadrian's Wall as they once were. But Jeff Barnett still keeps the standard flying.

His business, a one-man Roman army, is dedicated to extending the frontiers of knowledge about the Romans and their occupation of Britain. Thus his corporate dress is suitably styled: a Roman helmet, tunic, breeches, sandals, sword and shield.

He lives within a slingshot's distance of Hadrian's Wall, on the border of Cumbria and Northumberland, and for some years worked — mainly as a groundsman — at the nearby Roman site of Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum at Greenhead.

"Three years ago I was made redundant from the museum and decided to set this business up. I'd learnt a lot about the Romans and had some experience of talking to visiting groups so I felt I could make a living out of bringing the Romans to life," says Mr Barnett. He spent £1,800 of his redundancy money on two suits of Roman armour, two shields, two swords, two helmets, some spears and pairs of sandals made by a local armourer, at the same time as seeking help from Business Link Cumbria in Carlisle.

There he joined a "new start scheme" for unemployed people wanting to become self-employed and after a series of training workshops he produced a business

plan that was good enough for him to qualify for assistance through the European Social Fund. Whatever he earned in the week up to a certain level was deemed to be 55 per cent of his salary, with the fund matching the other 45 per cent.

Coverage in his local newspaper, combined with the school contacts he had made over the years, gave his business the impetus it needed. Today Mr Barnett travels as far as the Midlands and Edinburgh to give talks about the Romans, with most equipment packed inside his car but spears on the roof rack. He tries to shine his armour every night when he comes home.

"My talk is geared to explaining why the Romans came to this country, why they were successful, how their weaponry evolved and how their Empire expanded," says Mr Barnett. He always appears in uniform, although he usually removes his helmet once the initial impact is made.

The big draw is that youngsters and others can try the armour on themselves and get a feel of the swords, shields, slingshots and spears. Roman toilet paper — a sponge on the end of a stick — is something he brings out if attention is waning. At the moment his armourer is making another uniform, this time to fit the size of a seven-year-old.

About half of Mr Barnett's business is in schools and the rest is split between Scout groups, youth hostels, hotels and women's insti-



Standard bearer: Jeff Barnett in the winter and summer Roman uniforms he wears for his talks

Over the summer he will also be working at the Roman sites at Corbridge in Northumberland and Birdoswald in Cumbria.

"He's a real character. He's got an amazing enthusiasm for his subject and the ability to transfer that to any audience which comes his way," says Adam Slade, the manager at Birdoswald. Ian Berry, executive manager at Business

Link Cumbria in Carlisle, adds: "He has a unique product and a unique way of putting it over."

What Mr Barnett earns in a day varies considerably. He might charge £30 for an evening talk in a youth hostel down the road or make £120 from a visit to two schools in Edinburgh. He accepts that the rates are on the modest side but says many groups might not be

able to afford him if he charged more.

In any case, he would not trade in his job for the world. "I've been a joiner, a paint sprayer, a RAC patrolman, a truck driver and a groundsman and this is the best thing I've ever done," he says.

Jeff's Roman Experience: 01697 47502

# Warnings increase as small firms fail to take bug seriously

By RODNEY HOBSON

DESPITE dire warnings from the Government and advisers, small and medium businesses are still not taking the millennium bug seriously. New warnings have been issued by as disparate a selection of organisations as Business Link Surrey, the Institute of Personnel and Development and Barclays Bank.

Business Link Surrey argues that smaller companies will be among the worst affected because they lack the resources and support necessary. It has joined forces with the county's training and enterprise council (Tec) to warn the 35,000 small and medium businesses in Surrey that they could be out of business in 18 months.

Business Link Surrey's computer diagnostic service is available from 18 Business Links around the country. The service assesses the problems facing individual businesses and provides an action plan highlighting the most important areas to be tackled first.

"The Tec is offering funding for "bug buster" training courses. Small companies who cannot afford their own trained millennium bug expert can band together to share an expert.

Andy Still, who is responsible for the Business Link programme, says: "The millennium bug is an issue that affects all businesses, whatever their size, and they need to act now before it is too late. Ignoring the problem is not an option but I'm afraid this is the course too many small and medium businesses are taking, partly because they are unaware of the support available.

"Businesses should contact their local Business Link to find out what support there is and for advice on the best way to tackle the problem. "Every company needs to assess carefully what the position is. If they get it wrong, the outcome could be disastrous.

"Businesses need to recognise that the bug will affect more than just computer equipment. Anything electrical from telephone systems to lifts, fire detectors and security systems may fail."

He points out that larger companies will not allow suppliers to jeopardise their business. Suppliers who cannot show that they are following a structured and effective

programme to deal with the bug will lose out.

Members of the Institute of Personnel and Development were also warned that smaller companies are lagging behind big employers in tackling the bug. Keith Adams, a consultant with Action 2000, the Government-backed body trying to raise awareness of the issue, told a two-day conference in London that there were potentially disastrous consequences for personnel systems.

Barclays Bank says that more than 60 per cent of small businesses are not planning to take any action to prepare for the millennium bug in the next 12 months.

Mike Davis, managing director of small business banking, believes complacency about the issue could have disastrous consequences for the small business sector.

He says: "The millennium bug is not just a PC issue. All firms, regardless of whether or not they own a PC, may still face a business risk through non-compliance of their suppliers and customers.

"If a major client or supplier has a computer system that will not work in the [new] millennium, the effects on a small business could be severe. Invoices may not be paid on time or problems could be experienced ordering and receiving stock. Unlike many larger businesses, small firms are often reliant on only a small number of suppliers and customers, making late payment and stock control issues extremely critical."

Barclays Bank says that of the 3.5 million small firms in the UK with a turnover of less than £500,000, about two million use a PC.



"Thanks to you lot, I've never known anything else!"

## BRIEFINGS

Courses are to be set up at British universities by Cisco Systems, the international information technology company, to tackle the IT skills shortage in small businesses. The first of the courses, which concentrates on networking, will start at the University of Central England, Birmingham, in September. Cisco has acted after research predicting that small businesses will fail to fill 30 per cent of their IT vacancies for at least five years.

Optimism among small busi-

nesses is at its lowest level for two-and-a-half years, even though 47 per cent of firms are reporting better sales turnover and employment levels than at this time last year, according to NatWest Bank's latest quarterly survey of small businesses.

A new and longer version of How to apply for grants, loans

and other sources of finance has been produced by Gee Publishing. It is written by Harris Rosenburg, a member of the Institute of Management, and is available at £40 by calling 0171-393 7400.

A nationwide scheme, sponsored by Mitsubishi Electric and backed by the DTI, to help smaller businesses to use the Internet was

launched at the opening of the Business Link Birmingham Support Centre, part of the DTI's Information Society Initiative. The scheme will be available through the Business Link network of ISI centres around the country.

The law giving a statutory right to interest on late payments, due to come into effect in November, will

have a limited impact for small businesses, according to research by Alex Lawrie, the business finance specialist. It says nearly half will not exercise their right to claim interest at 8 per cent above base rate on overdue bills and a little more than half believed that charging interest could result in lost customers. Even companies that said they would enforce their rights admitted that they would not pursue interest in some circumstances, particularly if the customer was regular and established.

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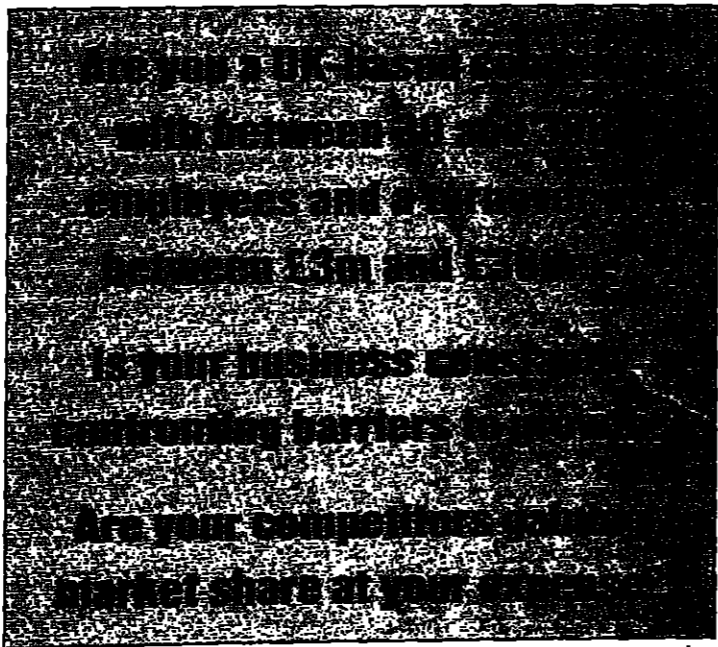
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NEWS

Stricter control on public pay

Stringent new controls on public sector pay and unprecedented powers for the Treasury to ensure that ministers are following the Government's spending priorities will be unveiled by the Chancellor today.

Benefit cheats 'steal £7bn a year'

Estimates of the amount of money stolen by benefit cheats have been increased from £4 billion to £7 billion a year, sufficient to give every pensioner an extra £10 a week or to cut the tax bill of every taxpaying household by £435 a year.

Arson deaths arrests

Two men were arrested in connection with the sectarian murders of the three young Quinn brothers as Northern Ireland pulled back from the brink of self-destruction.

Apartheid legacy

Police have reopened files on six people who died in Britain, apparently of heart attacks but who may have been murdered as part of a germ warfare programme operated by the former South African regime.

Boardman crashes

Chris Boardman, overall leader of the Tour de France, crashed at speed and rolled headfirst into a drystone wall, shattering his racing helmet.

Putnam appointment

Lord Putnam has been appointed by the Government to head a "national bank for talent" in science and the arts.

Peers warned

David Blunkett today tells peers that they will be overstepping their powers if they insist on challenging the Government again over variable rates of student tuition fees in Scotland.

Tsar's funeral

Russia is turning its back on the burial at the Peter and Paul Fortress, St Petersburg, of the last Tsar, 80 years after his murder at Yekaterinburg.

Hypnosis case

A stage hypnotist triggered a schizophrenic reaction in one of the participants, leaving him with long-term psychiatric problems and unable to work, the High Court was told.

French glory

The French football team celebrated its World Cup victory with a jubilant parade on the Champs-Élysées.

Childminder accused

A registered childminder accused of murdering a baby shook it in a "flash of temper" just four days after starting to care for him, a jury was told.

Torturer dies

South Africa's most notorious torturer has died quietly at home, robbing his former victims, including Cabinet Ministers, of making him confess to some of the worst deeds of the apartheid era.

Asylum rights

Thousands of asylum seekers and immigrants will lose the right to challenge deportation under proposals to streamline the £151 million appeal system.

Japanese scramble

Japan's Liberal Democrats scrambled to choose a successor to Ryutaro Hashimoto who is resigning to take the blame for a stunning setback in the Upper House election.

DIY surgery in the Outback

A British doctor has saved a man's life by operating with a rusty hand-drill. Stephen Hindley was on his second day in an isolated Australian hospital when he was forced to try bush brain surgery.



Steam rises from Mount Merapi, Indonesia's most active volcano, during an eruption yesterday. Villagers nearby were told to be on alert

BUSINESS

Russia: The Government agreed a £14 billion bail-out package with the IMF and vowed to set off any further speculative attacks on the rouble.

SPORT

World Cup: As the inquests continued into Brazil's lacklustre performance in the World Cup final against France, Ronaldo said that he suffered a fit in the hours before the game.

ARTS

Angel of the South: Once advertised as part of a seaside freak show, Sir Jacob Epstein's monumental sculpture Jacob and the Angel now has pride of place at the Tate Gallery.

FEATURES

Golden girl: Margaret McDonagh has risen through the ranks to become Labour's first female General Secretary.

MARKETS

Shares: The FTSE 100 rose 28.5 to 5958.2. Sterling was unchanged at 105.5 after a rise from \$1.6322 to \$1.6421 but a fall from DM2.9682 to DM2.9615.

FOOTBALL

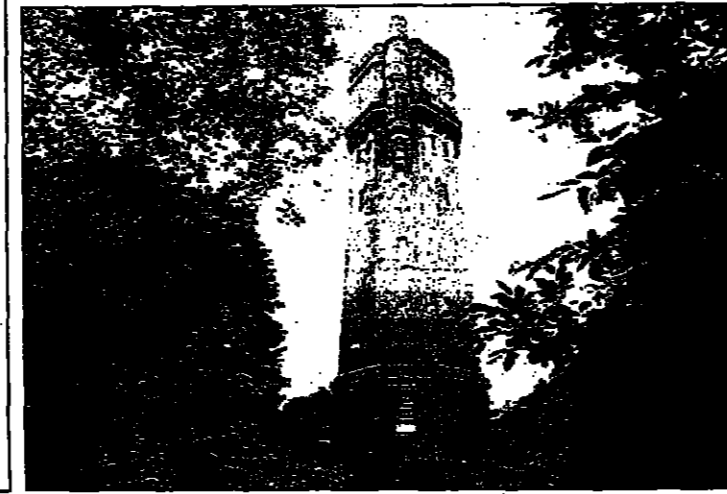
Football: Ian Wright, Arsenal's leading scorer, has been transferred to West Ham for a two-year contract thought to be worth more than £1 million.

CHINESE WHISPERS

Chinese whispers: Almeida Opera brings a dotty but riveting double bill of pieces by the contemporary Chinese composer Guo Wenjing to the London stage.

UNDER THE WEATHER

Under the weather: Britain's over-cast skies have plunged many SAD sufferers into the depths of despair.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

HOMES

Towers may grab the attention but does anybody really want to live in one?

INTERFACE

Ocean colour scene: keeping a check on the health of the seas from space

DOG DAYS

Canine jealousy: A new baby around the house can arouse canine jealousies, with devastating results.

THE REFORMS

Judging the judges: Criticism of the handling of a libel case has reopened debate on how and by whom High Court judges should be disciplined, says Frederick Lawton.

THE REFORMS

Seeking asylum: Half the women refugees in the UK are seeking refuge from rape and other forms of sexual torture.

THE REFORMS

The reforms which Russia needs can only be pushed through by a President who cares little for his own political career and long-term tenure of power, or is coming to the end of his term. This description does not sound like Boris Yeltsin.

THE REFORMS

Teaching maths: Diana memorial garden: Ulster conflict: Woodward trial: Caxton Chaucer sale: British Library backlog: Croatia's sportsmen; blister pill packs.

RADIO & TV

Preview: A barrister dies, Daglish is on the case. P. D. James's A Certain Justice (ITV, 9pm). Review: Peter Barnard on a bad winter for Sunny Jim. Pages 46, 47

OPINION

Japan just says no

After its roasting, Japan's Liberal Democratic Party may at long last have got the message. That would be wonderful news for Japan, Asia and the world. Page 19

Fair asylum

The DSS and the Home Office should co-ordinate information, so that those who have escaped deportation could be picked up by the police as they arrived to collect their benefits. Page 19

A tsar too far

Tempting though the Archon of Anti-smoking and the Bashaw of Beef (but never on the Bone) are, this pomp of nomenclature of power is not the British way. Page 19

COLUMNS

ANTHONY HOWARD

It is hardly fair, though, to accuse Tony Blair of having alone created this new breed of miniature Frankenstein. Rather is it our changed political system that has brought them into being. Page 18

MICHAEL GOVE

Since the Chancellor of the Exchequer seems to have designed his strategy primarily on the basis of avoiding old errors, it looks as though our economic policy is already being run from another country — the past. Page 18

DAVID BLUNKETT

The Teaching and Higher Education Bill is an essential part of our future and it must pass into law as soon as possible. Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

If the Lords is seen, or sees itself as more legitimate, following the removal of hereditary peers, then it will be more likely to use its powers. Page 9

OPINION

Lord Boyd-Carpenter, former Conservative MP; Octav Botnar, chairman of Nissan UK. Page 21

OPINION

Teaching maths; Diana memorial garden; Ulster conflict; Woodward trial; Caxton Chaucer sale; British Library backlog; Croatia's sportsmen; blister pill packs. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,843

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-25 and clues for Across and Down.

ACROSS 1 Heavy blow requiring doctor's injection in risky operation (6).

DOWN 2 Number supporting Church's militant group (3,5).

3 An important personage seen at the fairground (3,5).

4 Worthy Eastern firm I am employed in (9).

5 Repository for proceeds from Hitchcock tale, say (8,7).

6 Took a rest after flight home? (7).

7 Sedulous leader held by chief executioner (3).

8 Party men stage canvass (8).

14 Leader of riot with ideal organisation (9).

15 Extremely astute girl's received by court (3).

16 Turning point in dock used by many an old vessel (8).

17 Seated initially on mount that's most testing (8).

18 Popular ticket readily available (2,6).

19 The best drink improves one's health (5,2).

Latest Road and Weather conditions

Table with road and weather conditions for various regions like UK, Ireland, and Europe.

Weather by Fax

Table listing weather services and contact numbers for various locations.

World City Weather

Table showing weather forecasts for major world cities like London, New York, and Tokyo.

Motoring

Table with motoring information such as fuel costs and insurance rates.

Car reports by fax

Text providing details on car reports and contact information.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

LAST QUARTER JULY

Text providing information about the last quarter of July.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Text promoting newspaper recycling and environmental awareness.

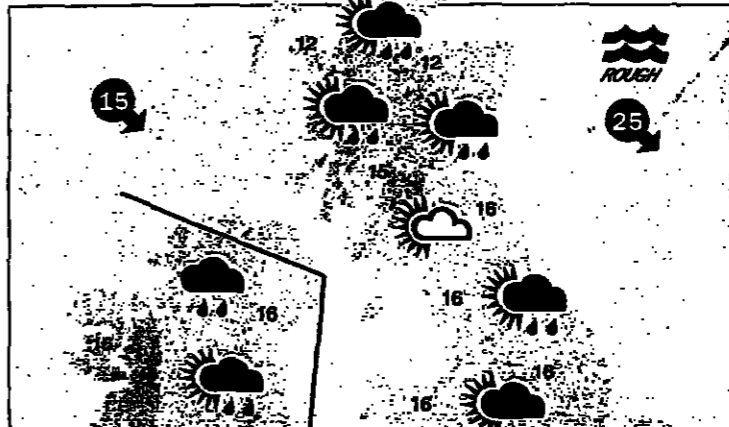
FORECAST

General: England, Northern Ireland and Wales will have some sunshine but showers are possible this afternoon.

ABROAD

Table with weather forecasts for various international locations.

LOCAL



WIND SPEEDS

Table showing wind speed data for various locations.

RAIN TENDENCIES

Text providing information on rain tendencies for different regions.

TODAY

Table with weather data for the current day, including temperature and humidity.

TODAY

Table with weather data for the current day, including temperature and humidity.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Text providing information on highest and lowest temperatures.

TEMPERATURES AT MIDDAY LOCAL TIME ON SUNDAY

Table showing midday temperatures for various locations on Sunday.

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